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ON THE COVER

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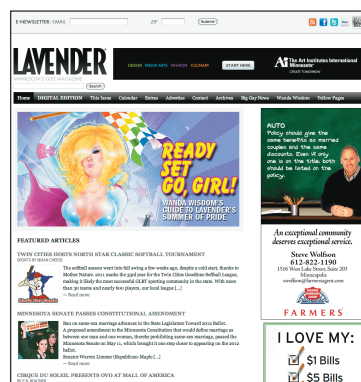
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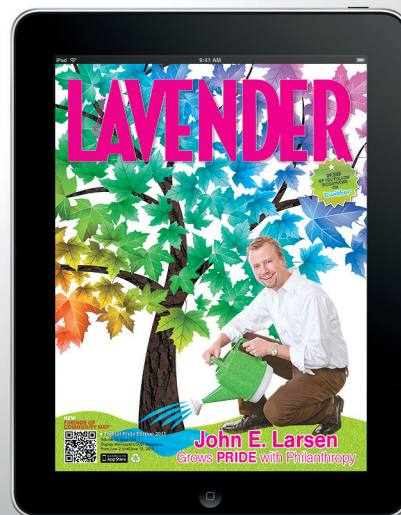
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Presbyterians Altar Rules on Ordination of Gay and Lesbian Clergy

AFTER THREE DECADES of debate, the Presbyterian Church USA recently voted to allow the ordination of openly gay and lesbian ministers, overturning previous requirements that clergy live in “fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness.”

The national tally, reported in the May 13 *StarTribune*, was finally decided by the vote of Twin Cities Presbyterians—the 87th cast for the simple majority needed out of 173 presbyteries.

Some 19 of the church’s regional bodies that came in against allowing openly gay and lesbian clergy the last time the church put the issue to presbyteries changed their votes this time around.

“I finally decided at the age of 63 that it is inevitable,” a church elder in California told the *Los Angeles Times*. “I think it’s like letting black people come to white churches, or letting women become ministers. It’s inevitable.”

When any denomination votes to allow gay and lesbian clergy to practice openly and proudly, the door opens a bit wider toward the day that same-sex unions not only will be allowed by church bodies, but also

will be considered as divinely sanctioned as heterosexual marriages.

Determining the ordination of openly gay and lesbian ministers by vote through governing bodies of clergy underscores that the issue of same-sex marriage is one of human dimensions, not divine fiat.

Writer Peter Smith commented in *The Courier-Journal* in Louisville, Kentucky, “The assembly’s committee on Civil Union and Marriage Issues voted 34-18 to change the definition of marriage in the church constitution to describe marriage as a covenant between ‘two people,’ rather than between ‘a man and a woman.’”

Reverend David Van Dyke, Pastor of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, quoted recently in the *St. Cloud Times*, acknowledged, “The vote will remove language from the constitution of the church that was put in to deliberately discriminate against GLBT Presbyterians. It’s being replaced by language that is, in my opinion, far more gracious and welcoming.”

The Presbyterian vote was a positive note among current clamors for an antigay marriage amendment now under way in our state, and a clarion call to take action to assure it won’t pass. □

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Sebastiàn Cichon Has Wanda Wisdom Covered

EVEN THOUGH I'VE been with *Lavender* now for the past five years, it's still a treat to be offered the opportunity to appear on the cover. I mean, what little drag queen doesn't hope to grace the cover of a magazine some day? The two other times I've been on the cover, I was photographed. This time around, the powers that be thought it'd be fun to try something different. "Maybe a caricature of Wanda," they said.

Right away, I knew exactly who I wanted to immortalize me in ink. His name is Sebastiàn Cichon. I met him through one of my long-time listeners in Poland. He's an accomplished artist, illustrator, and animator. He has sketched my likeness in the past, but until now, we never had the chance to display his amazing talent with such prominence. I'm beyond grateful that he graciously agreed to create such a beautiful image.

Best of all, Sebastiàn does it for a living, and he'll do it for you, too! If you're interested in hiring him to work on your project, feel free to contact him directly. He maintains a gallery of his work at <http://seban001.deviantart.com/>, or you can e-mail him directly at seban1@wp.pl. Tell him Wanda sent you! ■



Illustration by Sebastiàn Cichon

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by Justin Jones

LAVENDER UNVEILS FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY MAP

The Twin Cities doesn't have a "gayborhood" like Boystown or West Hollywood, but it doesn't mean we're missing out on thousands of businesses and organizations that support the GLBT community. The trick, of course, is finding out where these places are. Sure, you can peruse Lavender's advertisers and community listings to search for addresses, but wouldn't it be nice to have a visual? Oh, I don't know, maybe a Google Maps-style application?

TADA!

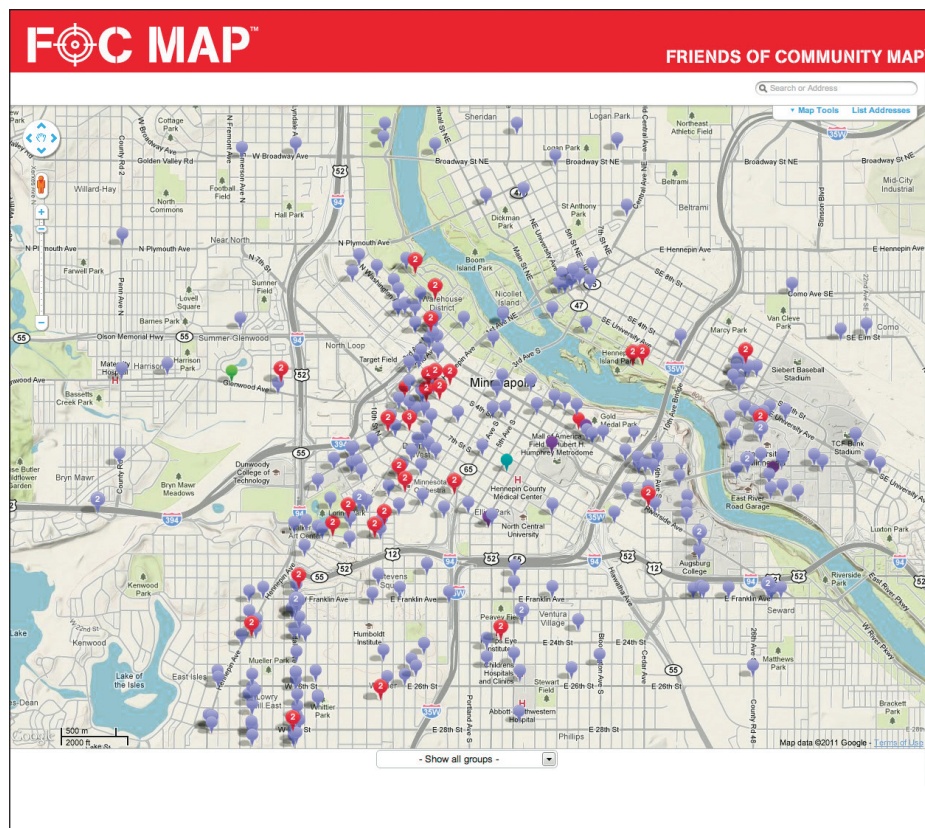
We heard you loud and clear, and now, Lavender has launched an interactive Web-based application that puts more than 1,000 GLBT-supportive businesses and nonprofits in your hands: The Friends of Community (FOC) Map Available at <LavenderMagazine.com>, or via the QR code* below, Friends of Community is a Google Maps-driven application that unearths points-of-interest in an easy-to-use locator. All Lavender advertisers, Community Connection listings, and distribution sites are represented here.

You don't have to be a seasoned Google Maps user or techno-head to use it, either. Friends of Community enlists search filters to get to the businesses you're looking for. You can search by type of business/organization, name, address, zip code, and even URL.

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Which reminds me—Happy Pride!

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MARCH ON THE CAPITOL

Excellent—Bradley Traynor, you hit the nail on the head with your “Perspective” piece “It’s Just Plain Wrong” [*Lavender*, May 21]. The Republicans also campaigned on less government involvement in people’s lives, but that apparently doesn’t pertain to GLBT people.

It is time that the GLBT community stood up to these idiots with a very loud and clear message: “We are as mad as hell, and we are not going to take this kind of treatment anymore.”

The Stonewall Riots started the GLBT movement, and it is clearly the time to raise our voices and actions loudly once again.

If all GLBT folks stopped paying taxes, they might be inclined to hear us. The GLBT

community must come together and march on the Capitol—United in Pride.

It is a huge sacrifice for GLBT folks to take off work, and gather at the Capitol, but now is the time. If we sit back now, we take a giant step back for equality and inclusiveness.

Who will lead us into battle?

HARRY HARTIGAN

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT UNNECESSARY

So, now it’s official. Our holy and sanctimonious state has upheld its morals by passing a bill that would put a constitutional amendment on the ballot that would prevent gays and lesbians from marrying each other. I guess it wasn’t enough that Minnesota law already bans gay marriage in this holier-

than-thou state.

So, I guess this means we’ll have to continue to marry people of the opposite sex.

This “defense of marriage” is so unnecessary, because, after all, even a constitutional amendment isn’t going to stop interested married men from sleeping with us. □

JOHN MEDEIROS

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GLIMPSES

by George Holdgrafer



1

De la Cruz Is New OutFront Minnesota Development Director

Maria de la Cruz recently joined OutFront Minnesota as Development Director. She served for two years as Development Manager for Take Action Minnesota, and as Marketing Specialist for Casa de Esperanza from 2007 to 2009. She graduated from Metropolitan State University with a BA, and from Hamline University with an MA.

Maria de la Cruz. Photo Courtesy of Maria de la Cruz



2

MayDay Event Reprises in Powderhorn Neighborhood of Minneapolis

On May 1, the annual MayDay event took place in the Powderhorn Neighborhood of Minneapolis. It kicked off with the parade on Bloomington Avenue in which several thousand persons participated. Following was the festival in Powderhorn Park that attracted nearly 50,000 people, culminating in the Tree of Life Ceremony.

Powderhorn MayDay Event. Photo by Sophia Hantzes





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GLIMPSES

by George Holdgrafer



3

University of Minnesota Hosts Lavender Celebration and Awards Ceremony

The 15th annual Lavender Celebration and Awards Ceremony (formerly known as Lavender Graduation) took place on May 6 at Coffman Union on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. It honored the accomplishments of GLBT and allied students, staff, faculty, and community members across the five U of M campuses.

GLBTA Leadership Award recipient MJ Gilbert (left) and University of Minnesota GLBTA Programs Office Program Coordinator Ross Neeley. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



4

Schlefke Conducts Last Concert with Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra

On May 14, the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra presented its Spring Concert, *Hit Parade 2: Censored!*, at Sundin Music Hall on the Hamline University campus in St. Paul. It was the orchestra's last performance under the baton of Joseph Schlefke, who has been its Music Director and Conductor since 2001.

Joseph Schlefke. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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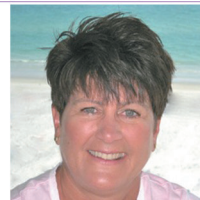
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HERE WE GO AGAIN.

The “Rs” are in trouble with their conservative base—again. Well, they must be, because every time the leadership finds themselves in need of demonstrating to their base that they are, indeed, committed to “the cause,” they haul their favorite whipping boy out of the closet (pun intended) for some public flogging.

The Republican leadership in the Minnesota House and Senate are not cutting the budget enough, proposing further tax reductions, or digging their heels in deeply enough in their battles with Democratic Governor Dayton, and, as a result, the conservative wing of the party is not happy with them. So, to rally the troops, and fire up the base, they turn to gay marriage.

Wait a minute. Doesn't Minnesota already have statutory language that defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman? The answer is, yes, we do. So, why do we need to devote precious time, resources, and attention to this issue during such a critical legislative session?



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COMMENTARY

Minnesotans are lagging behind the nation in educational standards and outcomes; unemployment is hovering around 7 percent; thousands of people with disabilities are scheduled to lose their life-sustaining services (and thousands more will experience significant reductions in community-based services); the majority leadership is not resolving the current projected deficit with cuts only (as promised), but will borrow tens of millions to finance the projected deficit; our infrastructure is in need of significant attention; environmental issues loom; and many other critical issues are still staring this Legislature in the face.

Why, then, should we devote time to the Republican leadership's need to make a shameless and disingenuous genuflection to their base. It is an unconscionable effort to further polarize our communities. Shame! If a similar move were perpetrated against any other minority population, there would be a tremendous reaction.

Senator Scott Dibble said it best when he asked, "What family does this help in Minnesota, especially during this time of economic difficulty and crisis?"

The national Republican leadership recently tried a similar tactic. After completing a disappointing budget negotiation (the far right and the Tea Party folks wanted even deeper cuts to the 2011 federal budget), they got a spanking from the unions in Wisconsin, and not did fare as well as they would have liked in the health-care debate last year. Congressman John Boehner and his merry band of followers needed to shore up confidence from their base, and appease the Tea Party influence that is overshadowing their broader agenda.

Their first move was to hire prominent DC attorney Paul Clement (he was Solicitor General in the George W. Bush Administration) of King and Spaulding at \$520/hour to defend the Defense of Marriage Act. On April 25, King and Spaulding, bending to significant pressure from the gay community, decided to drop the US Congress as their client. Clement promptly resigned from King and Spaulding, and was immediately picked up by Bancroft PLLC, a small firm in Washington, DC, in a lateral move. He is

COMMENTARY |

a partner in the firm.

I, and everyone one else who identifies as gay or gay-friendly/supportive, could, *again*, reiterate just how incredibly demoralizing, insulting, and subordinating it is to have elected officials marginalize us and thousands of others, simply for political gain. But I know the message would fall on deaf and uncaring ears.

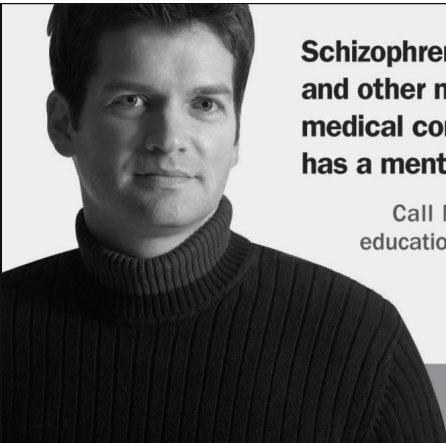
So, instead, I would like to take my message to my community, the gay community. As a community, *we* cannot allow this to be done to *us*. It is time to demonstrate that we will not accept this. And believe me, this is about a great deal more than just marriage.

So, to that end, I would like to propose that we organize a community-wide event that will send a clear message to St. Paul, and beyond. We need to remind elected officials at the State Capitol that we are not a minority to be taken lightly. They need to be reminded of our social, and more importantly, our economic value and its consequences.

I believe we should stage a "Pink Flu." Don't laugh...economic boycotts have been a tremendously valuable tool for civil disobedience. The GLBT community and our nonprofit organizations (The Aliveness Project, OutFront Minnesota, and others) need to spread the word that on June 28, we will all "drop out" for the day.

We will stay home from work, and we will not shop, or purchase goods or services (no grocery shopping, no gasoline purchases, no visits to our favorite coffee shop, nothing). And we will encourage our friends, families, and supporters to join us. This one-day economic boycott will send a very clear message to the legislative leaders—that we are vibrant, contributing, and important assets to our communities all across the state.

Join me....I dare you. ■



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PRIDE AWARDS

PRIDE AWARDS

Introduction



In each Pride Edition, *Lavender* spotlights just a few of the people and companies standing proudly with us. Since 2003, we have given six awards annually to help others see the good done by and for our community. These individuals and organizations have helped us make our voices heard and achieve equality in ways that may not be perfect, but have enabled us to move toward our goal of full rights for GLBT people in Minnesota.

Lavender's PRIDE (People, Rallying, Individuality, Diversity, and Equality) Awards are bestowed on six individuals or organizations that, in the past year, have proclaimed they are *proud* of who they are and what they do. It is never easy for any person or any group to stand out from the crowd, but that is exactly what they have done.

We at *Lavender* thank these six awardees. But let's not just thank them. Rather, thank everyone you know, whether it's your lover, your friend, your family, your employer, or even a stranger. Thank them when they join our fight for equality—no matter how big or how small their contribution may be.

If you know of, or encounter during the coming year, an exceptional individual or group you'd like to nominate for the 2012 PRIDE Awards, e-mail that person's (organization's) name and contact information, along with a brief description of what makes that person (organization) a deserving candidate, to <editor@lavender-magazine.com>.

A Great Dane dog with black and white spots is sitting on a grey couch in a modern apartment. The dog is wearing a blue collar with a tag. The couch has several colorful pillows, including red and teal ones. In the foreground, there is a wooden coffee table with a remote control and some books. Large windows in the background show a view of trees and a fence. The word "blue" is written in red lowercase letters on a black background in the top left corner.

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PRIDE AWARDS

JOHN E. LARSEN

by E.B. Boatner

JOHN E. LARSEN is deeply involved in philanthropic issues, both philosophically and as a bottom-line, making-money-work-for-good, hands-on practicality.

Recently awarded PFund's first Power of Philanthropy Award, Larsen is a cofounder and primary fundraiser of Project 515, as he was for its predecessor, TogetherMinnesota!, formed to stop the anti-gay-marriage amendment in 2005-2006.

Larsen, a Principal of Design 45 and President of the John Larsen Foundation, is involved in numerous other organizations.

Of them all, Larsen considers his and his partner's participation in the Host Home Program their "greatest level of engaged philanthropy." In 2009, they welcomed into their home Rosie, a young woman who was homeless and in need of support/stability. Last year, she started college. "It is truly one of the greatest joys of my life to watch her grow and succeed," Larsen shared.

Recently, in order to achieve greater impact, the couple have focused their giving on five primary areas: GLBT issues, particularly human rights; restorative justice practices in Minnesota; excellence/creativity in the arts; international hunger relief and microfinancing; and protecting the environment.

Larsen emphasizes, "Mike and I have been members of the 1% Club for a number of years. We are committed to giving away at least 1 percent of our assets yearly. In 2010, we donated 50 percent of our taxable income."

The John Larsen Foundation, the family foundation of which he is President, is a private grant-making organiza-

tion with a mission to better the lives of individuals and families, both traditional and nontraditional.

Larsen summed up the most important aspects of the foundation's work by noting, "Ultimately, I think we are able to do good work in a number of areas because of the passions of each of the board members. We are a very small foundation with limited resources, so our grant-making is limited. Fortunately, each board member is actively involved in one or more of the communities we fund, and so has a sense of where we can achieve the greatest impact. Maybe the most important effects can be seen around our ability to act quickly—we are a small board—and take a long view of any given issue.

"Diversity, inclusivity, and equity are very important to us. We are fortunate to have a bit of 'diversity' on our board, because I'm gay. Still, we are clearly lacking racial, ethnic, and economic diversity. While we do fund racially diverse organizations and diversity programs, and often provide funds targeting people who are economically disadvantaged, I believe our funding in these areas would increase with more diversity in our organization."

Pondering the question of wealth—what it means to feel wealthy, and how much is *enough*—Larsen stated, "I believe wealth happens when decide we have enough, and start giving money away. I challenge all of us to really feel wealthy. I also challenge us to imagine the impact we can have in our community, our state, our country, and the world if we *all* decide we are wealthy—if we *all* decide we have enough." ■



John E. Larsen. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



PRIDE AWARDS

LORRAINE TEEL

by E.B. Boatner

LORRAINE TEEL recently retired after nearly 21 years as Executive Director of the Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP), but it's unlikely her active nature will allow her to rest on her laurels.

Teel recalled, "At first, the agency was in crisis mode 24/7. People newly diagnosed came to MAP seeking support, which we largely offered through volunteer-supported programs, and often died within weeks or months of their arrival. It was an uncommon privilege and honor for the MAP staff and volunteers to help so many during the last days of their lives."

At MAP, Teel's role was to create an administrative and funding structure that would support HIV-prevention programming, as well as services for those living with HIV.

Teel enjoyed the opportunity to speak publicly on the social impact that policies have on public issues like HIV/AIDS.

"Unfortunately," Teel stated, "HIV had early on been turned into a 'political disease,' due to the impact it was having, and is still having, on underrepresented communities. They are not communities that have historically worked well together, so finding common avenues of communication to support the needs of many with limited resources was a challenge, and one that I fought hard for."

In addition to that challenge remains the perception—particularly to many at-risk individuals—that HIV/AIDS simply isn't the problem it once was.

"Everything in this world is complicated," Teel acknowledged, "and there is no one reason why HIV has not gone away or been erased. We can point to the lack of a

vaccine; to the various sexual routes of transmission; to worldwide homophobic policies and governments; to the impact that the so-called 'war on drugs' has had on Americans; to widespread racism and poverty, and lack of affordable housing—all of these impact the choices that people make when it comes to risk.

"That is why we need a broad-based campaign of education and prevention programming—no one message will work. Working to find the right messages that both sound the alarm bell and don't stigmatize those living with HIV has been challenging."

Teel is currently seeking "opportunities to speak or write about my experiences and my strengths—in content areas such as HIV and substance abuse, as well as in the area of nonprofit management."

Looking back, Teel related, "I have so many women friends who were leaders during the amazing and explosive growth of the nonprofit movement during the '70's and '80s, and there is some important documentation of that work which also warrants some writing, so lots of ideas on my next steps."

Teel even enjoys a few laid-back pursuits: "Those who know me well used to laugh when I'd say, 'Well, I'll be out in the garage dyeing this weekend.' Of course, they heard 'dying'—but adding that little 'e' refers to me dyeing fabric. I'll be exploring the wonderful world of fabric, including what to do with the stacks of previously dyed fabric threatening to overtake my house. And, I have three wonderful grandkids to spend time with. No shortage of things to do!" ■



Lorraine Teel. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



PRIDE AWARDS

GARY REMAFEDI

by E.B. Boatner

GARY REMAFEDI, MD, MPH, who founded the Youth and AIDS Projects (YAP) in 1989, has been its Director since then.

Offering a bit of background, Remafedi said, "My position is Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota; my degrees are in Medicine (MD) and Public Health (MPH); my medical specialty is Pediatrics, and my subspecialty is Adolescent Medicine."

YAP was one of the first AIDS service organizations for young people in the world.

Remafedi has long been involved in outreach efforts to LGBTQ youth, starting during his subspecialty training in Adolescent Medicine at the University of Minnesota from 1983 to 1985.

"At the time," Remafedi explained, "I undertook some of the first studies ever done with LGBTQ youth, describing their sexual identities and how it impacts health. The work my colleagues and I did in the 1980s uncovered the problem of suicide in LGBTQ youth, and anticipated the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in US adolescents."

For Remafedi, "outreach" casts a wide net, the word encompassing "any means to find and involve a target group in activities, programs, and services."

Programs for LGBTQ youth have been aimed at preventing the medical and psychosocial problems that can arise from the long-standing isolation and stigma that starts in childhood.

Remafedi pointed out, "The most common problems are family disruption; school dropout; homelessness; suicide; tobacco/substance use and other mental health problems; and HIV/STDs. Since 1989, YAP has provided

preventive services; referrals to other service providers and organizations for any unmet needs; and specific case management for HIV-positive youth and their families."

Two years ago, when Remafedi discovered that his YAP research work was being used in a campaign urging schools to eliminate gay-straight alliances and other forms of outreach, he battled that issue. Recently, he successfully fought the iPhone app from Exodus International touting its belief that same-sex attraction can be cured, which distorted his research findings to support its assertions.

"Sadly," Remafedi conceded, "there is little evidence that the major problems of LGBTQ youth have changed much in type or frequency in the last three decades since my colleagues and I started studying them."

Remafedi noted, however, that because youth are coming out at younger ages, and because traditional gay venues (bars and social organizations) are largely off-limits to minors, queer youth today are looking to the Internet for information about sexuality and a connection to LGBTQ communities in the privacy of their living space.

So, while activities, programs, and services will continue to be delivered in physical settings like schools, clinics, and community organizations, Remafedi predicted that the fastest growth will be in existing and new digital technology to provide virtual services.

As Remafedi put it, "I hope and fully expect that this decade will be the era of action during which we will see a rapid growth in the numbers and types of different activities, programs, and services that are aimed at resolving the many serious public health disparities related to sexual identity." ■



Gary Remafedi. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



PRIDE AWARDS

TWIN CITIES GOODTIME SOFTBALL LEAGUE

by E.B. Boatner

THE TWIN CITIES GOODTIME SOFTBALL LEAGUE (TCGSL), one of the country's oldest and largest, has just started its 33rd season.

John Thomas, starting his eighth season as League Commissioner, provided a condensed history: "It all started when a group of guys were socializing one day, and decided to challenge the Minneapolis Police Department to a friendly game of softball.

"Now, 32 years later, we have 36 teams and over 550 athletes playing Sundays during the summer at the Northeast Athletic Fields in Northeast Park, Minneapolis. We're a longtime member of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), which hosts the Gay Softball World Series each year,"

TCGSL, which has won four World Series championships, hosted the event in 1996, and will again in 2012.

Thomas promised, "You'll hear a lot about that in the future, as we plan and fundraise."

In addition, TCGSL annually hosts the North Star Classic over Memorial Day Weekend.

TCGSL is open to everyone, and as Thomas pointed out, "With 36 teams in the league, we have a competitive level that fits everyone's abilities."

Thomas shared, "We hear positive comments all the time. There are the usual stereotypes that have to be overcome, but overall, a league like ours is a perfect example of how being GLBT does not make you any different. Many of our athletes also play sports such as volleyball, rugby, basketball, bowling, tennis, soccer, football, and more.

"Times are changing, and when professional athletes like

Gareth Thomas, Esera Tuaolo, and Jon Amechi come out, and athletes like Ben Cohen and the NHL become very public supporters of treating everybody equally, it helps to destroy those stereotypes. We hope we're doing our part, too."

Thomas related that while most TCGSL members are GLBT, the league does not ask if they are, and has no restrictions on who may join.

In Thomas's words, "Our league is built on sportsmanship, respect, and having a good time. We have brothers and sisters playing, fathers and sons, bosses and employees—you name it."

Part of having a good time involves working within the community, Thomas noted: "As a league, our goal is to provide a safe environment to play a sport, be a fan, and to meet other members of the community that you might not meet through other venues. Throughout our history, we have supported other groups, such as the Minnesota AIDS Project, District 202, the Human Rights Campaign, and Camp Heartland. We also have an internal fund, called the Sunshine Fund, that can be tapped when one of our members is in need, or we want to recognize another charitable group."

TCGSL's mission statement is straightforward: Have a good time!

"It's in our name," Thompson pointed out, "and it's our philosophy. Our goal is to provide a safe, fun environment for GLBT people to play a sport, socialize with friends, and meet new people."

For more information, visit <www.tcgsl.org>. ■



Josh Grant of the Unicorns Softball Team. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



PRIDE AWARDS

QUATREFOIL LIBRARY

by E.B. Boatner

THIS YEAR MARKS the 25th anniversary of this unique library that literally came out of the closet to become a Twin Cities treasure and resource.

Then-partners David Irwin and Dick Hewetson started Quatrefoil Library in 1986 with their personal collection of GLBT books and magazines—which was, indeed, housed in a closet in their home. Since that time, the organization has continued to expand to a membership of more than 400, with an all-volunteer staff.

Scott Breyfogle, President of Quatrefoil's Board of Directors, said, "There are a lot of exciting things taking place this year, including a celebration party; the integration of new library cataloging software; and the launching of the endowment campaign An Eye on the Future, to be used to find new ways for people to use today's technology, build collections of materials that will enrich the lives of our users, maintain and advance cultural and educational programs sponsored by the library, and help with space-related expenses."

Breyfogle explained that the library has grown considerably from the original duo's 1,500 volumes, and currently houses more than 18,000 books in all genres. The expanded collection includes DVDs, CDs, children's books, titles available in Braille, and electronic article databases.

As Breyfogle shared, "We are very lucky that we have generous donors who provide us with many of the books."

According to Breyfogle, while the library's main focus is a collection that can be physically checked out, a growing body of work will remain in the facility.

"Last year," Breyfogle reported, "the library received

an Arts and Cultural Heritage Grant from the State of Minnesota to preserve the unique magazines and newspapers documenting the gay-rights movement in the Upper Midwest. While these materials are not available to be checked out, they are available at the library."

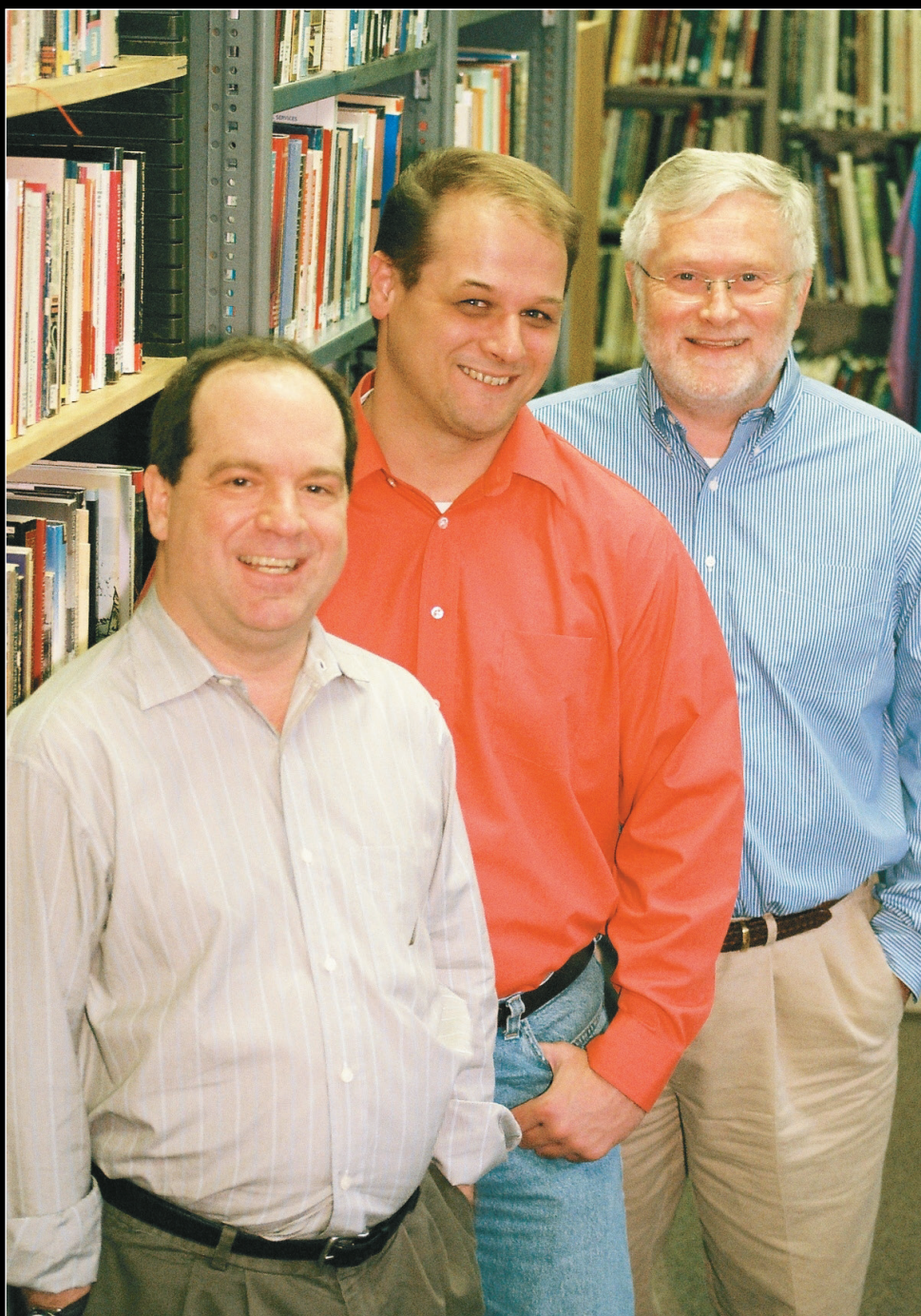
Quatrefoil also holds what might be called "antimatter" on the subject: "In the American Library Association Bill of Rights," Breyfogle commented, "there is a mandate that 'libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.' So, yes, we have 'Ex-Gay' books. We have videos from the American Family Association. It is crucial to have items that still reflect the discrimination and oppression we face."

"We continually strive to integrate our historical presence into new areas, as communication and technologies evolve," Breyfogle added. "By collecting and lending queer-creative output, we nurture and cultivate the value of the whole community. Our mission statement says it best: 'The Quatrefoil Library's mission is to provide a welcoming place to foster GLBT community, culture and camaraderie through literature and media.'"

Breyfogle is still surprised to encounter those unaware of Quatrefoil's existence.

In Breyfogle's words, "I joke that the Quatrefoil Library is the best-kept secret in the LGBT community. For your readers who have not visited the Quatrefoil Library, I invite them to check us out, and to become members."

For more info visit <www.quatrefoillibrary.org>. ■



(From Left) Quatrefoil Library Board of Directors Vice President Mitch Marks, President Scott Breyfogle, and Treasurer Don Yager.
Photo by Sophia Hantzes



PRIDE AWARDS

GENERAL MILLS/ BETTY'S FAMILY

by E.B. Boatner

ACCORDING TO GENERAL MILLS Senior Financial Analyst Elisha Huse, Betty's Family is one of seven employee networks or "affinity groups" within the company that are organized and run by employees, and elected by their peers.

Created in the mid-1990s, and named after General Mills icon Betty Crocker, Betty's Family is the company's GLBT network, open to any and all employees.

Huse said, "Our network's mission is to create a safe, open, and productive environment for General Mills LGBT employees and allies."

The company that provides two million pounds of Green Giant vegetables *daily* takes all its efforts seriously, but none more so than its affinity groups.

Huse explained, "Same-sex partner benefits exist through pension; health-care insurance; auto/homeowner's insurance; partner leave, in the event of a birth or adoption; and life insurance. For those employees who receive company cars, same-sex partners are granted access for personal use. Company facilities such as onsite medical center, gym, and company store are open to same-sex partners. General Mills also provides health insurance that covers counseling for employees considering gender reassignment."

As Huse pointed out, "General Mills is a leader in philanthropy, and has been so for more than 50 years. Our annual giving of over \$100 million centers on grants, product donations, and strategic philanthropy. Just a few of the organizations that Betty's Family and General Mills supports are Family Equality Council, One Voice Mixed Chorus, Project 515, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, and Open Arms."

"Diversity reaches wide and deep within General Mills," Huse noted. "By having a culture at General Mills that feels inclusive to all employees, we are better able to attract and retain a more diverse workforce. Betty's Family helps to create a more inclusive, vibrant, innovative culture where diverse employees want to work, stay, and grow."

Huse added, "The networks that exist represent those groups that have historically been underrepresented and disadvantaged in the workplace. They play an important role in employee integration into our organization, and helping employees feel a sense of belonging. Additionally, the networks contribute to the General Mills efforts to reflect our consumers, communities, and the workforce—all of which are critical for competitive advantage."

Each employee, of whatever background, in Huse's words, "brings a diverse set of characteristics, experiences, and perspectives, and has the opportunity to contribute and add value in a unique way. Every employee plays a role in building a culture of inclusion."

Also, any employee may join any affinity group as an ally.

Huse remarked, "Allies are some of the most effective and powerful voices of the LGBT movement. Not only do allies help people in the coming-out process, they also help others understand the importance of equality, fairness, acceptance, and mutual respect."

As Huse put it, "We will continue to push workplace equality forward in Minnesota, and we will not do it alone. We will continue to engage our partners and the community. Together, we will build leaders, and continue the efforts toward a fully inclusive workplace." ■



Betty's Family Co-Chairs Trent Whitford (left) and Elisha Huse. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

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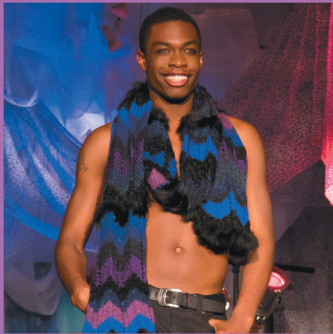
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GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK

IN THE WORDS of Gandhi: “The earth has enough for man’s need, but not enough for man’s greed.” This has become very apparent, with scientific studies, Hollywood, former Vice Presidents, and the media bringing it to our attention—perhaps just in time, before it is too late.

We are only tenants of this planet we call Earth, and only one of countless animal and plant species that try to coexist. It seems that we sometimes lose sight of this. Maybe we should look a little closer at how our footprint on the Earth will affect its future. As horticulturists and gardeners, we somehow feel closely connected to the earth and the gifts it offers.

Here are a few tips for making your garden and our world a bit “greener.”

Be aware of your inputs. Try organic solutions to remedy disease and pest issues before resorting to chemical warfare. Many organic solutions actually work. Maybe use a Neem-based fungicide or an insecticidal soap. Perhaps release beneficial insects like ladybugs or praying mantises into the garden to keep pests at bay. If you must use a chemical to nip an outbreak in the bud, follow the label directions. Organic fertilizers are good, but slow-release fertilizers work throughout the season as plants need it, minimizing runoff and leaching.

Conserve water and reduce erosion by mulching your garden with organics like cocoa bean or shredded wood mulch. As the mulch decomposes, it will also add organic matter to the soil, which helps retain moisture and nutrients for your garden plants. The more organic matter ➔

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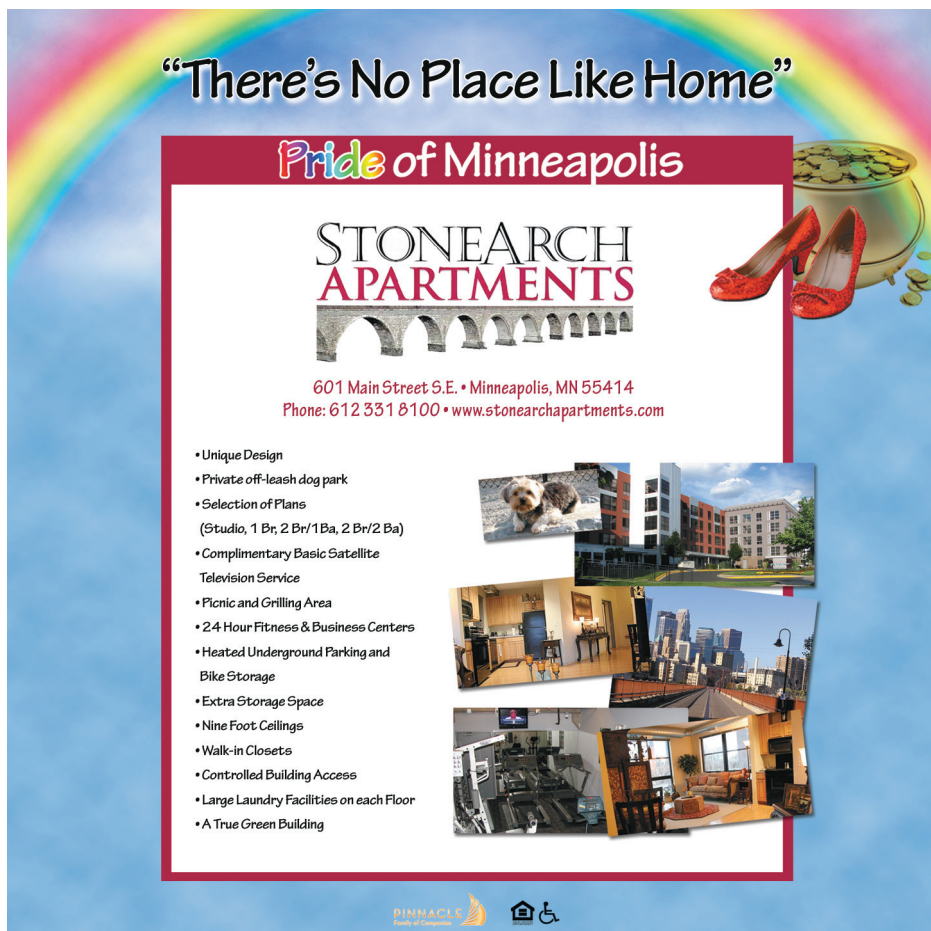
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Buy locally grown plants, and support independent businesses that believe in sustainability and the community surrounding them. Each year, we sustainably grow more and more of our own plants locally in our own Tangletown greenhouses just outside the Twin Cities. It makes sense. We can control inputs while improving quality, and increase plant diversity while saving copious amounts of fossil fuels by not having to truck in as much material from out of state.

Choose your plants wisely. For instance, if you have dry soil, choose plants that will tolerate that condition. Maintenance and inputs will be reduced, while conserving water in the process. Similarly, if you have a steep slope, plant groundcover that will minimize erosion.

Recycle. This can be turning yard waste into compost, recycling nursery pots back to the garden center, or buying garden products made from recycled or sustainable materials. It is easy to do as long as you are aware of your options.

At Tangletown Gardens, we are always on the lookout for new and innovative products and solutions to minimize our impact on the planet. We carry stylish design-forward containers for the home and garden made from sustainable products like bamboo and rice hulls. Similarly, we are experimenting with these sorts of pots for nursery production, signaling an end to the wasteful black plastic nursery pots prevalent in the industry. ➔

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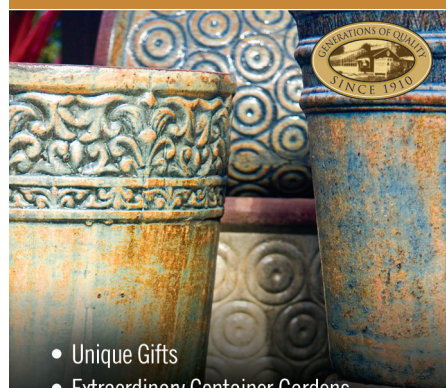
try. We also try to reuse black nursery pots over and over, encouraging guests to return them for recycling.

Fortunately for us, the very nature of gardening is “green.” Plants play an important role in our environment: reducing carbon and improving oxygen; cooling the earth; and providing food and wildlife habitats. Gardening strengthens the bond between man and nature, ensuring the success of both along the way.

What could be greener than planting a tree, or nurturing the earth for future generations, sharing the lessons we learn about gardening, sustainability, and green living along the way? Do what you can. The positive impact we make today is a means to accommodate the needs of a healthy future for our planet. We can all make a difference. □

Scott Endres is co-owner of Tangletown Gardens and the new Tangletown's Wise Acre Eatery at 54th and Nicollet in South Minneapolis.

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Pride Reflection

CERTAIN THINGS ARE necessary for a life of meaning, happiness, and fulfillment. They aren't the "niceties" of life. They are the "necessities" for a successful life.

According to the Founder of Christianity, one of those necessities is a healthy sense of pride. Jesus, to be sure, didn't say it, or state it quite that way. He rarely used the word "pride." He only used the word once that I am aware of.

However, a sense of self-esteem, self-worth, self-respect, and especially self-love was continually on Jesus' mind and central to his words.

In a pivotal conversation he had with an attorney, Jesus summed up everything He believed in and stood for: He told him that the crucial thing for people to do in life was to love God, love their neighbors, and love themselves. Loving ourselves the way we love God and loving our neighbors was the decisive thing. "Do this," Jesus said to the attorney, "and you will live."

Pride was the real thing for Jesus. It all stemmed from the conviction

that everything and everyone came from God, that all people were God's children, and that all things were God's creation. Everyone and everything had infinite value and worth.

Surprisingly, pride has often come to mean something very different in our world. Still, the Founder's words remain valid and true. Pride is still the real thing, for the same reason: the conviction that everyone and everything have infinite value and worth.

Look for the image of Someone Greater inside yourself. Look for ways to share it with someone else. Look for means to nurture the seeds of self-esteem, self-worth, self-respect, and self-love in your own life.

"Do this," Jesus still says, "and you will live." Do just that much, and your life will have everything.

Happy Pride! 

Reverend Greg Renstrom is Minister at Wesley congregation in Downtown Minneapolis.

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THIS SUMMER IS 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AIDS CRISIS

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT PEOPLE WITH HIV ARE LIVING LONGER, BUT
THE BAD NEWS IS THAT INFECTION IS ON THE RISE.



THIS SUMMER MARKS 30 years since the first cases of AIDS were reported in the United States. While some progress has been made in treating the disease, and those infected are living longer than ever, there is no cure, and infections continue to rise in Minnesota and across the country.

By 2007, more than 576,000 people with AIDS had died in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The death toll continues to rise, as the CDC estimates that more than 18,000 people with AIDS die each year nationwide.

The first cases of AIDS in the United States were reported to the CDC on June 5, 1981. Initially, the mysterious disease was thought to be a form of pneumonia. The CDC determined it was a “cellular-immune dysfunction related to a common exposure” and a “disease acquired through sexual contact,” later called acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), according to a 2001 *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Misinformation and stigma continue to surround the virus, which can leave those living with it feeling marginalized.

Some are rejected by their peers or families, according to Joe Larson, Executive Director of the The Aliveness Project.

“It’s still an isolating disease,” Larson said. “[Those infected] don’t tell people. They get depressed. We hear from lots of our members that Aliveness is a place where there is family.”

The Aliveness Project, which began in 1985, reaches out to those living with HIV/AIDS. It provides resources such as a food shelf, treatment to help alleviate symptoms, health and wellness programs, and a community of people who understand what they are going through.

“Know you are not alone,” Larson said, explaining that the fear surrounding HIV/AIDS frequently prevents those living with the virus from seeking help. They are often afraid that others will subject them to judgment and ridicule. “That’s a big part of the stigma and the shame,” Larson added.

There has been an increase in older people living with HIV, according to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Larson said this means people with the virus are now able to lead fuller lives.

“We’ve shifted from the crisis mode I remember in the ’80s,” Larson recounted. “People are living longer, but I think we still need to show support and do prevention in our community.”

Larson cited MDH statistics that show HIV infections are on the rise, with 331 new cases in Minnesota last year. More than 50 percent of those newly infected are identified as men who have sex with men, which is consistent with the national pattern.

The prevalence of sexually transmitted infections is also increasing, which Larson said means people aren’t using proper prevention methods.

“Reduce the risk of getting infected,” Larson stated. “We need to keep [prevention] in the forefront.”

Getting tested for HIV and making efforts to stop the spread of the infection are more important than ever.

The CDC estimates that more than one million people are living with HIV nationwide. About one in five of those individuals living with HIV is unaware of being infected, which means they can unwittingly spread it. ■

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TRAINING TO SERVE EDUCATES GLBT AGING SERVICES PROVIDERS

AS THE BABY Boomer generation ages, more GLBT people require not only senior services, but also a provider that is inclusive and conscious of the unique challenges they face.

Training to Serve (TTS) educates providers of aging services, and gives them tools to address the needs of older GLBT people.

According to TTS Board Chair Cathy Croghan, “We have a larger population of aging LGBT individuals—so many people who were on the front lines, who were part of the gay liberation movement. Those people are now older, and they need those services. I think as a community we owe them something.”

The organization began in 2009 in light of a survey by the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging that found agencies are not adequately prepared to serve older GLBT people.

Most agencies are not aware of the GLBT individuals under their care and what they require, which Croghan said needs to change.

As Croghan explained, “Number one, our training raises the visibility of LGBT elders, just to make sure people understand we are everywhere.”

A long-term goal of TTS is to give older GLBT people options by establishing partnerships with institutions around the state and training agencies to deal with their specific needs and struggles.

The estimated 21,000 GLBT elders in the Twin Cities are more likely to face dire circumstances than their heterosexual peers, which can prevent them from receiving adequate care.

Older GLBT people are twice as likely to live alone, and five times less likely to take



Cathy Croghan. Photo Courtesy of Cathy Croghan

advantage of senior services. They are less likely to have stable support networks, and, without proper care, are more prone to experience isolation, depression, substance abuse, and institutionalization.

TTS Board Member John Buchholz emphasized why providers need to serve their GLBT patients better: “I think the importance is that there is a very specific need

for this group, which is growing exponentially, because they have a set of characteristics different than other elders. There are virtually no specific GLBT services.”

That most senior services do not offer GLBT-safe environments has forced more older GLBT people to hide their sexual identity.

“Now, we have a group of people who were out, and they are being forced to go back to the closet to access services,” Croghan recounted. “And that is very sad to see.”

TTS aims to train mainstream service providers to be more inclusive regarding how they treat patients and employees, while fostering understanding between them and the GLBT elders they serve.

“Because heterosexuals are the dominant culture, it is very easy to make assumptions,” Croghan remarked. “As a result of this training, we hope people realize that, in their person practice, they are making assumptions about individuals when they come through the door.”

Croghan related that inclusivity can be accomplished when providers make changes in their forms, intake processes, and marketing materials to avoid judgments about patients’ sexual orientation and familial or marital situation. This way, GLBT individuals can feel more welcome. ■

To learn more, visit <www.trainingtoserve.org>.



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Navy Reverses Decision To Allow Chaplains To Perform Same-Sex Ceremonies

The Associated Press reports that, following pressure from up to five-dozen US House lawmakers, the US Navy has reversed its earlier decision to allow chaplains to perform same-sex marriages where allowed by law. In a one-sentence memo obtained by the Associated Press, Rear Admiral Mark Tidd, chief of Navy chaplains, said his earlier decision has been "suspended until further notice pending additional legal and policy review and interdepartmental coordination."

Ugandan Parliament Drops Antgay Bill

The Guardian reports that the Ugandan Parliament has dropped a bill to imprison gay people after a hearing. The legislation called for life imprisonment for anyone convicted of a "homosexual act," and a seven-year prison sentence for anyone who "aids, abets, counsels or procures another to engage in acts of homosexuality." Although the legislation faced strong international criticism, supporters warned that it could be reintroduced during the next session.

Gay Men Report Higher Cancer Rates

According to Agence France-Presse, a new study in the journal *Cancer* found that gay men reported cancer twice as often

as straight men. The study's author urged further research to determine whether gay men are actually at a higher risk of getting cancer.

Library of Congress Exhibits Gay-Rights History

The Associated Press reports that documents from the early gay-rights movement are on display for the first time at the Library of Congress. They came from pioneer Frank Kameny, who was fired in 1957 for being gay. They are on display as part of an exhibit on constitutional history and civil-rights protections.

Brazil's Supreme Court Recognizes Gay Partnerships

Reuters reports that Brazil's Supreme Court has ruled in a

case to legally recognize gay partnerships. The decision gives gay couples most of the same rights enjoyed by heterosexuals, including pension benefits and inheritance rights, as well as the right to adopt children. The ruling was unanimous.

Life Sentence Handed Down in Pickax Killing

KPTV reports that David French, who identifies as a woman, was convicted in May of murdering his roommate with a pickax, and was sentenced to life in prison. French was captured after being identified from an episode of *America's Most Wanted*. The victim, Frank Johnson, lived with French for several years. Prosecutors said the murder was fueled by jealousy, but French argued it was self-defense.

Lesbian Blogger in Syria Becomes Heroine

CBS reports that Amina Abdullah, a 34-year-old lesbian in Syria, has been called a hero for her blog "A Gay Girl in Damascus." She blogs about her life as an out lesbian in Syria. Being gay is illegal and considered taboo in Syria. Abdullah was forced to go underground in May after security forces accused her of being a foreign agent, and tried to arrest her.



Northern Ireland Man Acquitted over Reaction to Gay Bar Butt-Grab

➔ In Northern Ireland, 21-year-old Christopher Brendan Thompson has been acquitted of assault after pushing his face into the face of another man who grabbed his butt in a gay-friendly bar. The man who grabbed Thompson wasn't injured, and didn't file charges, but an eyewitness reported the incident to police, and Thompson was subsequently prosecuted. The judge in the case agreed with Thompson's defense that he was simply responding to an unwanted sexual assault by establishing his "straight credentials." □

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DAVID MARTY

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Words of Pride

EACH YEAR AS Pride Month rolls around, I inevitably find myself reflecting on Prides past—some marked by emotions, others by accomplishment. I remember the giddiness I felt watching the parade in 1995 as a college student, just a couple months after coming out. I think about the many years I got to volunteer at my workplace's booth at the festival, handing out countless cookies and dog treats. Perhaps most exciting was the first time I rode in the parade, shouting and waving along with the thousands of other proud members of our community.

There's always something memorable about Pride—sometimes deeds and sometimes words. As I approach my 16th Pride, I thought perhaps in anticipation of the memorable deeds, we'd look back at some of the memorable words our community can take pride in to help to put us in the mood for our monthlong celebration. From the last century to this one, many in our community have given us hope and encouragement with their words. This year, it's safe to say, we need them more than ever.

Kurt Hiller, *Appeal on Behalf of an Oppressed Human Variety*, Written for the Second International Congress for Sexual Reform (Copenhagen, 1928), and Presented by Magnus Hirschfeld:

"Same-sex love is not a mockery of nature, but rather nature at play; and anyone who maintains the contrary—that love, as everyone knows, is intended to serve the propagation of the species, that homosexual or heterosexual potency is squandered on goals other than procreation—fails to con-

sider the superabundance with which Nature in all her largesse wastes semen, millions and billions of times over. As Nietzsche expressed it in *Daybreak*, 'Procreation is a frequently occurring accidental result of one way of satisfying the sexual drive—it is neither its goal nor its necessary consequence.' The theory that would make procreation the 'goal' of sexuality is exposed as hasty, simplistic, and false by the phenomenon of same-sex love alone."

Frank Kameny to the Supreme Court of the United States, 1961:

"Petitioner asserts, flatly, unequivocally, and absolutely uncompromisingly, that homosexuality, whether by mere inclination or by overt act, is not only not immoral, but that for those choosing voluntarily to engage in homosexual acts, such acts are moral in a real and positive sense, and are good, right, and desirable, socially and personally."

Harvey Milk, From a Version of His "Hope Speech," Quoted in Randy Shilts, *The Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk* (1982), p. 363:

"And the young gay people in the Altoona, Pennsylvanias and the Richmond, Minnesotas who are coming out and hear Anita Bryant in television and her story. The only thing they have to look forward to is hope. And you have to give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow, hope for a better place to come to if the pressures at home are too great. Hope that all will be all right. Without hope, not only gays, but the blacks, the seniors, the handicapped, the

us'es, the us'es will give up. And if you help elect to the central committee and other offices, more gay people, that gives a green light to all who feel disenfranchised, a green light to move forward. It means hope to a nation that has given up, because if a gay person makes it, the doors are open to everyone."

Quentin Crisp, Transcript of *The Naked Civil Servant*/Quentin Crisp Interview by Jessica Schuman, Broadcast on KPFFK-FM, Los Angeles, 1978:

"In the beginning I was entirely unsure of myself, especially when I was at school. And when I was young I alternately confirmed and denied my existence. But after a while you can't keep that up. You have to make up your mind whether you are going to try and make yourself over to the world's opinion of what you should be like, or whether you're going to stay with what you find that you are."

Barbara Gittings, "Gay Liberation: From Task Force to Round Table," Interview in *American Libraries: The Magazine of the American Library Association*, December 1999, pp. 74-76:

"As a teenager, I had to struggle alone to learn about myself and what it meant to be gay. Now for 48 years I've had the satisfaction of working with other gay people all across the country to get the bigots off our backs, to oil the closet door hinges, to change prejudiced hearts and minds, and to show that gay love is good for us and for the rest of the world too. It's hard work—but it's vital, and it's gratifying, and it's often fun!" ■



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Beginners Is Awesome New Film About Septuagenarian Who Discovers His Gayness

Interview with Mike Mills

Renowned actor Christopher Plummer stars as a dad who comes out at 75—and enjoys it!

THE GENERAL VIEW of the coming-out process is that it happens in youth, or at some point in early middle age when you're starting to sense your mortality. For the late Paul Mills, father of film director Mike Mills, it wasn't until he was 75.

In his beautiful new film *Beginners*, Mike Mills recounts that process with two illustrious stars of different generations: Christopher Plummer and Ewan McGregor.

Plummer is best known for his portrayal of Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, perhaps the sexiest romantic hetero lead performance in a musical film ever. McGregor was adorable in last year's gay love story *I Love You Phillip Morris*, in which he played Jim Carrey's significant other.

Be warned, however, that when you see Plummer and McGregor so up-close, personal, warm, and lovable, you may want to crawl up into the screen in hopes of snuggling with them. Plus, Cosmo, who in the film is Arthur, the pet Jack Russell Terrier, gives one of the cutest animal performances ever. This darling trio is enhanced with stellar performances from the dreamy Melanie Laurent and the zanily unpredictable Mary Page Keller.

Paul Mills, a World War II veteran, was Director of the Oakland Museum of Art. In the film, played by Plummer, he goes by the name Hal Fields. Mike Mills, portrayed by McGregor, is called Oliver. But it's still Mike Mills's own reflection of his relationship with

his father.

I spoke with Mike Mills the day after a sold-out screening of *Beginners* at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival.

When watching *Beginners*, I saw a straight son being loving, gracious, and extremely supportive of his gay father. Others in your shoes would not have been. Why and how were you so unconditionally accepting?

I had a lot of gay friends, and I went to art school in New York City from 1984 to 1990, and I lived there for a long time. And I have a lot of people I really admire that were involved in ACT-UP and The Grand Furies—the graphic design part of ACT-UP. So, in terms of gayness and all that, that was no biggie for me.

And it wasn't as much a surprise for me as it was for Oliver in the film. In my real life, my oldest sister had told me when I was 18 that Pop was gay. But as families are so strange and silent with each other, no one talked about it. The impossibility of his being gay never really came up. So, it wasn't that surprising. It wasn't that shocking. It wasn't controversial in any way.

And then, my mom had just passed away. I was really close to my mom, and was really dealing with that. You really feel like, oh, shit!—my dad's probably going to go any second. But no. He comes out, and he rejuvenates and becomes so alive—becomes so young and fully there. I think that really influ-



Christopher Plummer (left) and Ewan McGregor in *Beginners*. Photo © 2011 Focus Features

enced how I took the whole thing. You're just happy he's alive—that he's more alive by being gay.

My father was a very gracious guy, very conscientious. I understood that it was very strange to have this man who was married to my mother for 44 years to all of the sudden have the hots for the UPS man.

And you were OK with that? You didn't freak out?

I didn't really freak out. It's weird to have your dad, at any age, with anybody, all of a sudden be really horny, and want to have sex, and want to talk about it all the time. With a man or a

woman—it doesn't really matter. So, that was sometimes like, Pop! Enough!

My father, just in general, when he was a straight guy, could be a little self-absorbed or locked in himself. And sometimes, his gayness made him even more so, because everything had to be gay or about men.

I hope I don't make it seem totally easy or without conflict or without some problems, but by and large, my gay dad was superawesome, and we had a much more engaged relationship than I had with my straight dad. He was more emotionally available. He was more fully there.

And, of course, the gay dad and the straight dad were the same man.

Exactly. But in my mind, they're pretty separate dudes.

I was touched by the rainbow-symbol moment where he thinks most people don't know what it means.

My dad ignored the gay world for all those years. He just did some weird trick in his head where he wasn't paying attention to it. So, when he came out at age 75, there were a lot of things that my sister and I knew about the gay community that he totally didn't

know. So, he told my sister one day that that means Gay Pride. And Kate goes, like, yeah, everybody knows that. And he really didn't think everybody knew that. He really thought it was somewhat code.

That's kind of bittersweet.

Yes. Bittersweet. Isn't it the story of Rip Van Winkle, where he falls asleep forever, and then wakes up? [Dad] was sort of like that—where he was coming to, coming to consciousness. And in some ways, his straight kids knew some things more than he did.





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Your mom had to have sacrificed some of her fulfillment. Mary Page Keller portrays her as mischievous and nurturing.

I love her. Mary is a very complex, smart lady who can get all the weirdness of my mom's choices. I still don't understand why my parents got married or what they did. I was born when they were 40 in 1966. I was an accident, so I'm a product of recreational sex between my parents. It's not an easy way to look at them, and it's part of what fascinates me.

They knew each other since junior high. They were old friends. My mom was married to someone before. It didn't work out. And everybody's rebuilding the world after World War II. They're in that generation.

I loved the "moments in history" in montages you place throughout the film, like Presidents Eisenhower and Carter, and cultural elements of given years. You don't allow us to escape the historical influences on the characters. We can't do an easy, ahistorical judgment from our 2011 vantage point. But what struck me as most unique about *Beginners* is how you so organically juxtapose a senior citizen grappling with the ups and downs of coming out and gay love with his own son dealing with the ups and downs of a new heterosexual love. I don't recall ever seeing anything like that in film or theater. What inspired and energized that?

What you're particularly describing is very much what happened between my dad and me. When he came out, I was 33. When he passed away, I was 38. And I was very unsettled in my relationships, and very much wanted to be with someone. It wasn't like I had a commitment problem. I could commit. I could love. I could be with people. But there were always ways that it could unravel.

So, when my dad was out and ill, that's part of how I got much more engaged in my life. He was really questioning me about my decisions and choices in my love life. And I was really questioning him about his [decisions and choices], and his boyfriend and his whole world.

So, our engagement just wasn't nice and cuddly. It was also like, why are you doing that? Both ways. To each other. The film, to me, is a continuation of those conversations about love and relationship that we were having when he

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*AMERICAN IDIOT contains adult content and strong language. Photo: La Cage aux Folles Original Broadway Cast (by Joan Marcus)

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was alive. Just to the very end.

In that engagement, there's genuine concern about each other. No judgments.

I think Ewan just so lives that in all his choices. [At recent San Francisco press events], everybody asked him, "Why do you do so many gay characters?" And he was perplexed: "Like, why not? It's no biggie. I'm just doing a role. There are gay characters I haven't done, because I didn't think the part was good." He really is pretty orientation-blind. Not in a political way—just natural and easy. He really brought that to life in a really sweet way. And he really adored Christopher.

Aside from being sexual-orientation opposites, you've mentioned your father and Plummer as "old world," and you and McGregor as contemporary, sort of postmodern. There's often a template in our heads that such generational polarities are irreconcilable. But not with you.

To me, that's a huge part of the story—what it's like to be born in that time. My dad would never complain about anything—so stoic. He wasn't like the Great Santini—some macho dude. That was just that way that generation was.

Beginners will rock the mainstream world of the average *The Sound of Music* fan. Adjusted for inflation, the latter is the third-most-profitable film ever. And Plummer is utterly riveting in it.

Christopher is a very straight man—like a rake, a great womanizer. But I was aware that this is neat. The surprise that the audience is going to have that Christopher's playing a gay guy—not unlike the surprise my family had with my dad, all of a sudden, not being a straight guy anymore.

And I think part of why my dad passed as straight is, he was pretty handsome, and he looked "right." He looked like he was from "the right side of the tracks." And it sort of just greased the wheels for his interactions in the world. And Christopher really knows about that. His regalness is like part of the character. Such a beautiful, handsome man. □

Beginners

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TRANSGENDER TELEVISION GROUNDBREAKER PLAYS THE LORING

Interview with Alexandra Billings

POWERHOUSE PERFORMER/ACTIVIST Alexandra Billings, five-time winner of *Gay Chicago* Magazine's esteemed After Dark Theater Award, and 2009 Grand Marshal of Chicago's Pride Parade, will play the Loring Theater with show tunes and hilarious observations that you simply cannot miss.

Billings was the first transgender actor to play a transgender character on American TV. Though she has now had her fill of playing trans hospital patients on their way to death, her episodes on *ER*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Nurses* are still groundbreakers. She was the subject of the Emmy-nominated PBS documentary *From Schoolboy to Showgirl*. Her uproarious observations appear in the terrific Minneapolis indie film *FAUX*.

I spoke with Billings recently by phone. She was in Los Angeles, where she lives with her wife, Chrisanne Blankenship.

When I saw *FAUX*, the crowd roared during your comments about how gay marriage would spur the economy. What are your thoughts about the queer community as a potentially powerful economic force?

I think we underestimate ourselves, and always have. It's very difficult for the gay community—and I use the term “gay,” and I encompass everybody under that umbrella, because the whole L-B-G-T/BLT sandwich—all of those letters just confuse me. I'm an old person. I like things simple! So, I'm just going to say “gay.”

If every gay person in the United States of America made a vow: Do not spend any money—and I mean a *dime*—at any business that was not gay-owned or gay-run, the United States of America would shut down. It would cease to exist. We're not going to



Alexandra Billings. Photo Courtesy of Alexandra Billings

do that, because we can't get together in one big room and agree. But we have to stop looking outside our own community.

And what we have to do as individuals is start speaking our truth. I mean: Come out of the closet! One of the ways that we can help our brothers and sisters do that is by extending a hand to the other side. And here's what I mean: When the extremists come toward us, instead of throwing slurs

or tossing rocks, what we need to do is extend a hand. I'm your neighbor. I'm your grocer. I live next door to you. Let me introduce myself to you.

Yet some of us play victim.

We need to put the victim thing aside. We not only need to put it aside, we need to call each other on each other's crap. I'm approaching 50. In the '70s, we were still hiding, steeped in shame, and our generation still holds that. I'm guilty of that.

So, we really need to look to that new generation. These kids with their iPods and the Internet—they're smarter than us. They're more eloquent. The only thing they lack is the human experience. They spend so much time with machines, texting and one thing or another, that they lack a lot of human touch. What they need to do is get in touch—and I mean physically and emotionally—with their own people. And I hope *our* generation will erase and relinquish and shed so much of our shame. □

Alexandra Billings

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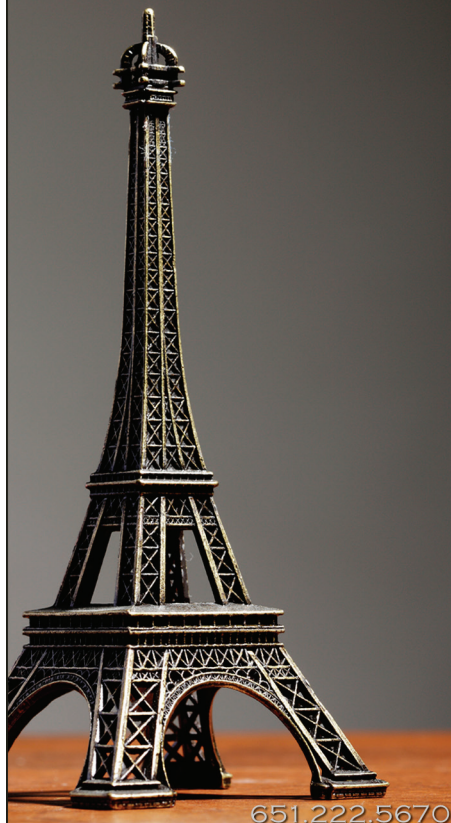
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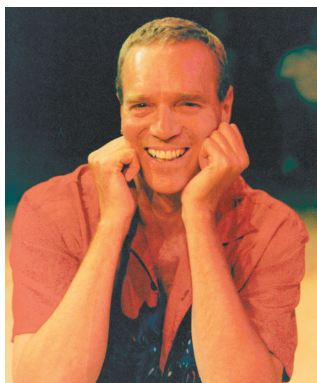
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PATRICK'S CABARET CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY



Patrick Scully. Photo by Sophia Hantzes

A QUARTER-CENTURY ago, Patrick Scully created an opportunity at St. Stephen's Church Gym in South Minneapolis by giving various artists a chance to try out new performance work before an audience without an audition. After the first, which he thought would be just a one-time event, the demand to keep it going skyrocketed, and Patrick's Cabaret was born—a safe space where you could express what you wanted, however awkward or transgressive. On June 11, Patrick's celebrates 25 years, featuring past performers spanning that time range.

Facilities Manager Marc Bautch remembers, "Back in the 1980s, being openly queer, a person of color, having a disability, or just being inexperienced meant that you couldn't find a stage to perform on. Patrick provided that space. We still have a similar format for our shows."

Scully recalls, "I knew I had created something special when Elaine Shelly first performed at the cabaret in the early 1990s. In her piece at the Southern Theater, she talked, from her wheelchair, about being a 'crippled black woman.' At the cabaret, doing the same piece, she talked about being a 'crippled black dyke.'"

John Killackey, former Walker Art Center Performing Arts Curator, who often collaborated with Scully, reminisces, "Each visit to the early days of his cabaret, I would learn about yet another local artist I did not know—exactly what an alternative space is supposed to do! His own work: AIDS-related elegies—fierce, strident, and mournful—and his very tall gay self-improvising

with a much shorter, straight Chris Aiken.

"He supported a rainbow cornucopia of young and old, established and emerging artists. Deeply local, his cabaret was also global—hosting, with Intermedia Arts, Isaac Julien's performative version of *Looking for Langston*, and working with the Walker to host Ron Athey's *Four Scenes in a Harsh Life*, which would become another flashpoint for National Endowment of the Arts funding."

In 1994, Athey's performance fueled right-wing attacks on the NEA. From *Star Tribune* art critic Mary Abbe to neocon media star Rush Limbaugh to Republican US Senator Jesse Helms, the cabaret was on the puritanical hot seat. Vicious distortions ensued that falsely claimed AIDS-tainted blood was dripping from a clothesline.

That most controversial period for Patrick's Cabaret occurred when it was on 24th Street South in Minneapolis. It's now on Minnehaha Avenue South in Minneapolis.

Performer Heidi Arneson asserts, "Patrick's Cabaret gave us permission. Permission to step on stage in a silver mini dress, silver platforms, and a long brunette wig."

As current Executive Director Amy Hero Jones puts it, "We still strive to create a theater space in which anyone and everyone feels accepted." □

25th Anniversary

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In 2011-2012, Judy is just the beginning...

A Civil War Christmas by Paula Vogel Nov. 19–Dec. 18, 2011	1968: The Year That Rocked the World at Minnesota History Center Jan. 21–Feb. 19, 2012	Coco's Diary by Ron Peluso and Bob Beverage March 3–25, 2012	Capital Crimes: The St. Paul Gangster Musical by David Hawley Music/Lyrics by Drew Jansen April 21–May 20, 2012
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Arsenic and Old Lace. Photo by Michal Daniel

Arsenic and Old Lace — Mention 1939, and culture vultures reflexively point to film classics *Gone With the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Rules of the Game*. That same year, the theater world emerged with an enduring screwball gem, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Compare *GWTW*'s prissy little old ladies to playwright Joseph Kesselring's politely murderous ones, and you get one helluva contrast! At the Guthrie, Sally Wingert and Kristine Nielsen delight as the two sweetly sadistic spinsters. **Through June 5 • Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. • (612) 377-2224 • www.guthrietheater.org**



AfterLife. Photo by Meredith Westin

AfterLife — Actress/writer Candy Simmons reprises her superb solo performance. Seldom do you see solo work where various characters are portrayed with such penetrating depth and historical perception. Simmons embodies three American women of different decades: a 1930s Appalachian midwife obsessed with bearing a child; a 1950s Wisconsin housewife interested in yoga; and a present-day New York white-collar worker dehumanized by pervasive electronic gadgetry, institutionalized corporate pressures, and fear of intimacy that such negativity fosters. **June 9-11 • Red Eye Theater, 15 W. 14th St., Mpls. • (612) 870-0309 • www.redeyetheater.org**

Sarah Palin's Minnesota; or Hindsight is 2011

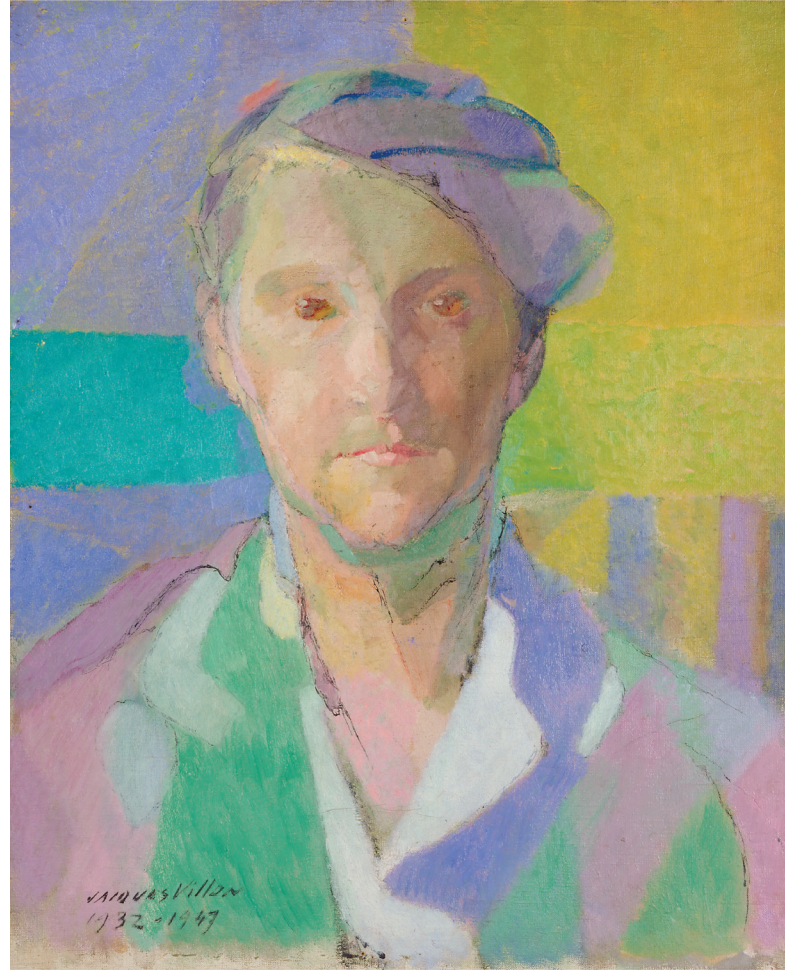
Let's face it: Ellie Hino has a tough row to hoe in portraying Sarah Palin, because Tina Fey of *Saturday Night Live* has essentially sewn up the Palin Parody Franchise. Nonetheless, Hino succeeds, because she softens the stereotypical crassness now associated with "Caribou Barbie," and shapes her into the daffy, harmless political threat that she more than likely actually is. After all, Michele Bachmann has now trumped even Palin in shameless media strumpetry. **Through June 24 • Brave New Workshop, 2605 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 332-6620 • www.bravenewworkshop.com**



Sarah Palin's Minnesota; or Hindsight is 2011. Photo Courtesy of Brave New Workshop

Fe/Male — Innovative choreographer Jeffrey Peterson's gutsy inquiry into gender norms beguiles again. An all-female cast and an all-male cast separately interpret physical aggression encoded by the pervasiveness of sports in our culture. As Peterson observes, in movements that are "most cliché, the most typically masculine carry the highest level of tantalization when translated onto women's bodies." In turn, regarding the males, this raw, wrestling-inspired dance style reveals that open secret: athletic machismo's inherent homoeroticism. **Through June 5 • Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. • (612) 871-444 • www.intermediaarts.org**

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[MUSIC]



JP Fitzgibbons. Photo Courtesy of Nautilus Music Theater

JP Fitzgibbons — JP Fitzgibbons is a musical performer with both vocal and stylistic range. Whether appealing to audiences at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres as a button-down nerd in *Forever Plaid*, or appearing with flowing sensuality in the gayly romantic *Songs From An Unmade Bed* at the 2006 Minnesota Fringe Festival, he makes a vivid impression.

Moreover, working with Nautilus Music Theater expands Fitzgibbons's musical vision. His performance in its 2011 Wesley Balk Solo Performance Series will give audiences a chance to experience that expansion with tunes by Stephen Sondheim and Adam Guettel, plus other works of musical storytelling.

Fitzgibbons appreciates the Nautilus approach, because he considers vocal performance to be “a living art form. It happens in time and space. The experience can be different for each individual performer, as well as for each individual audience member, making each occurrence like a fingerprint or a snowflake.”

In addition, Fitzgibbons notes that Nautilus has given him freedom “as a performer to create a present that is truly ‘in the now,’ influenced by the past, but not bogged down by it, and with a future that happens only by where the present is taking it.”

You might describe it as living and breathing a role as you sing, as Fitzgibbons points to what he calls “emphasizing the equality of music and acting in music theater.”

It's what the late Wesley Balk—whose technique Nautilus emulates—termed “singing-acting.” So, there's singing, acting, and singing-acting.

Artistic Director Ben Krywosz states, “In this series, we get to see what singing-acting is all about. We've always maintained that singing-acting is a third thing.”

June 13 & 20 • Zeitgeist Studio Z, 275 E. 4th St., St. Paul • (800) 838-3006 • www.brownpapertickets.com/event/167984

[Theater]



Courtesy of 20% Theatre Twin Cities

That Face — 20% Theatre Twin Cities is producing celebrated young British playwright Polly Stenham's play. Mykel Pennington and Avi Aharoni explore what happens when a mother gets too close to her son. Artistic Director Claire Avitable shares, “These people are broken, and have been sucked so far into the well of fixing one another that they are drowning. When someone you love is broken, you want to fix them. You want to make them better. And when you don't know how to fix them or make them better, you run the risk of actually making them—or the situation—worse.”

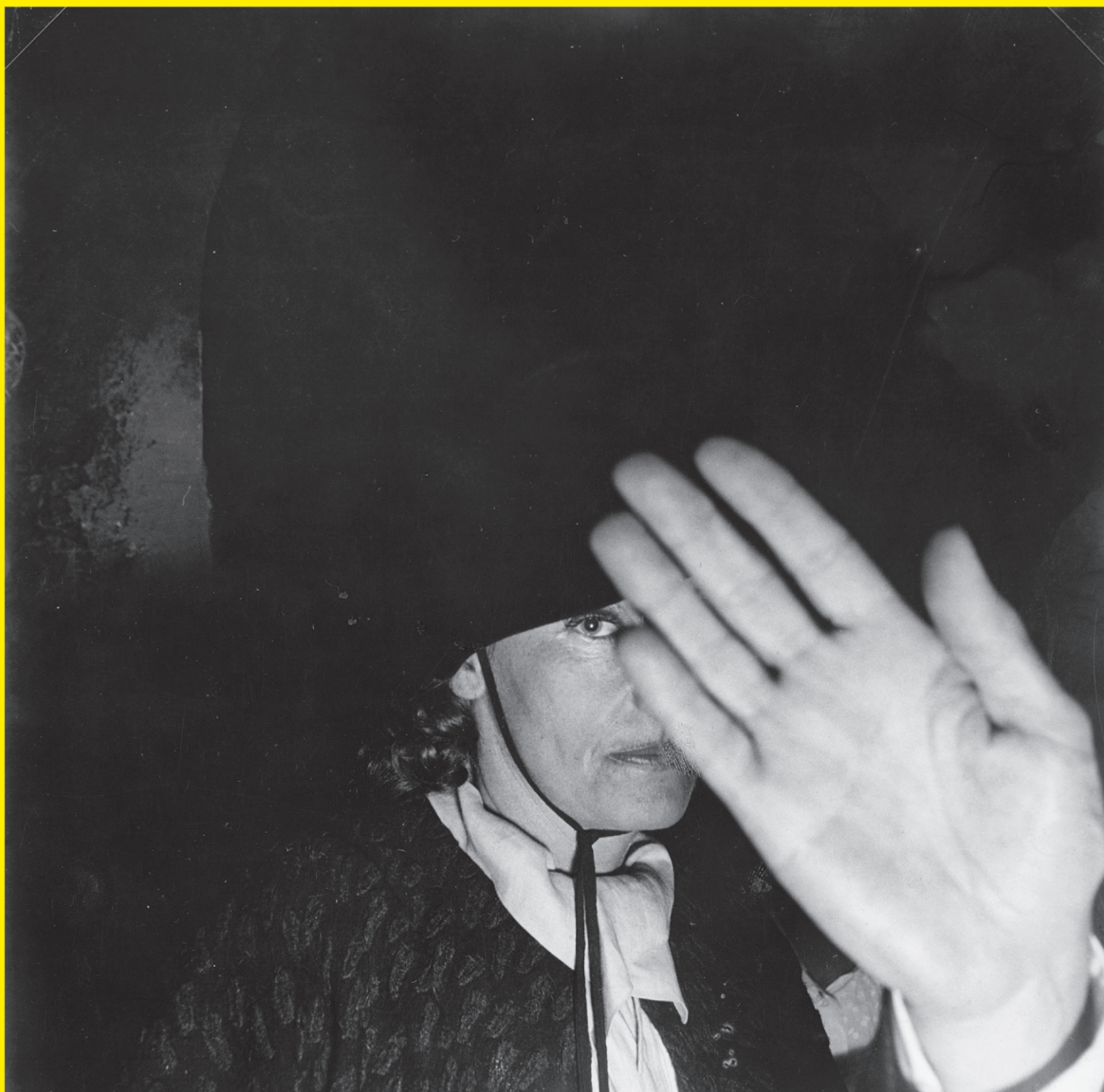
Through June 18 • Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 227-1188 • www.tctwentypercent.org

[Theater]

On The Town — Composer Leonard Bernstein's jazzy 1944 classic *On the Town* highlights Skylark Opera's Fourth Annual Summer Festival. Director Robert Neu observes, “Bernstein's theater music still has such appeal, because he knew how to combine melody, text, and emotion. He was extremely canny in taking ‘popular’ music, and putting it through his own prism, which bends any given genre just enough to make it still recognizable, but still makes it completely his own. He had an extraordinary sense of how to make voices soar, and move the listener.” Opinions vary about Bernstein's sexual orientation. He's often considered to have been bisexual. **June 10-19 • E.M. Pearson Auditorium, Concordia University, 312 N. Hamline Ave., St. Paul • (612) 344-3390 • www.ticketnetworks.com** □



On the Town. Photo by Charles Gorrill



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Georges Dudognon Greta Garbo in the Club St. Germain circa 1950s Collection SFMOMA, Foto Forum purchase © Estate of Georges Dudognon

Exposed: Voyeurism, Surveillance, and the Camera Since 1870 is organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Tate Modern. Major support for the exhibition is provided by the Trellis Fund and the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation.

The Walker Art Center's presentation is made possible by major support from Martha and Bruce Atwater and Elizabeth Redleaf. Additional support is generously provided by Miriam and Erwin Kelen. Media partner *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine*.

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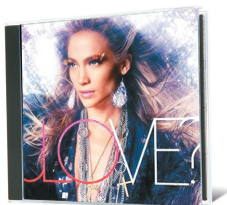


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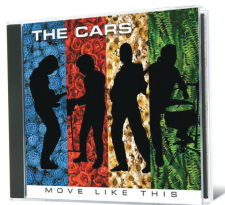
Helpless Blues **Fleet Foxes**

Few things in recent popular music are as beautiful as the opening track, “Montezuma,” as vocalist Robin Pecknold launches his voice above the mix, making the (absolutely gorgeous) music seem superfluous. It’s four minutes of folk-rock perfection, but—amazingly—no real letdown through the remaining 45 minutes of the Seattle band’s sophomore album. They even come close to topping those moments later on the album’s stunning show-piece of a title track. The band’s thoughtful, well-played music is part of the equation, as is Pecknold’s gorgeous voice. The overall vibe can’t be ignored, either. The album doesn’t feel like a collection of discreet pieces, but rather, a unified whole—the pieces sound like they can only exist surrounded by their musical friends.



Love? **JENNIFER LOPEZ**

Hmm, so what does the question mark mean, J-Lo? Unsure what love is now? Or, if you read the cover typography the right way, unsure of your identity? Maybe it’s the latter, as Lopez sometimes seems like a guest on her own album, with big-name guests (Pitbull and Lil Wayne) and plenty of producers to make sure the beats are perfect for all to hear. That means any sense of personality—which J-Lo has in spades—is lost beneath the layers of overproduced bubblegum. Even the gilded touch of Lady Gaga can’t save this from boredom, as the previously unreleased “Hypnotico” sounds like just another dance-floor thumper, with none of the off-kilter energy that sets the good Lady apart from the pack.



Move Like This **THE CARS**

Bands reuniting after a long layoff don’t exactly have a great track record, with recent records by Blondie, Duran Duran, and the Stooges landing on the figurative scrapheap. The reconvened Cars—minus bassist/vocalist Benjamin Orr, who passed away—aim to avoid that trap. The key is finding the right balance between what worked (bouncy catchy songs and unique sound) and what brings the band forward to the 21st Century (sharp production, avoiding dated drum and synth sounds). It turns into a quick, heady mix that quickly marches past the missing quarter-century and back to the band’s prime, anchored by Ric Ocasek’s vocal chirps and Elliot Easton’s bright, poppy guitar. *Move Like This* isn’t the second coming of Candy-O, but it’s a bright reminder that rock isn’t dead yet.



Theft of the Commons **NO BIRD SING**

Like other regional styles, Twin Cities hip-hop embraces the musical traditions of its home. Considering our melting pot of influences, it’s not surprising the acts are as likely to reference Fugazi as Funkadelic. On their sophomore release, *No Bird Sing* meld their beats and lyrics with songs that wouldn’t sound out of place on a postpunk compilation. Harsh guitars rip over the beats (all played by the band—no samples are used), while a general sense of malaise and fear permeates the proceedings. Tracks like “Night Lights” (where “no birds sing”) or “Guns for Planes” could be the sound track for a burned-out, ashen-gray landscape. It’s not devoid of joy, but *Theft of the Commons* shows a band thrilled to be living between musical worlds. □



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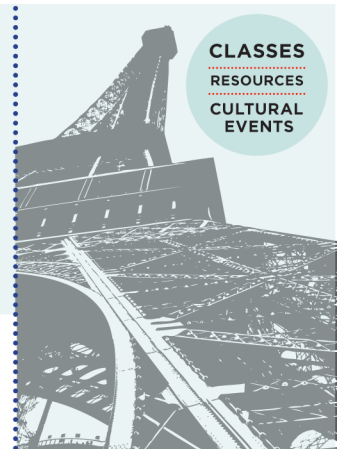
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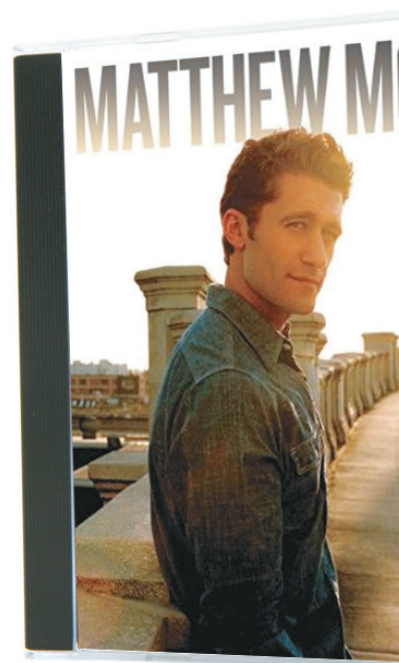


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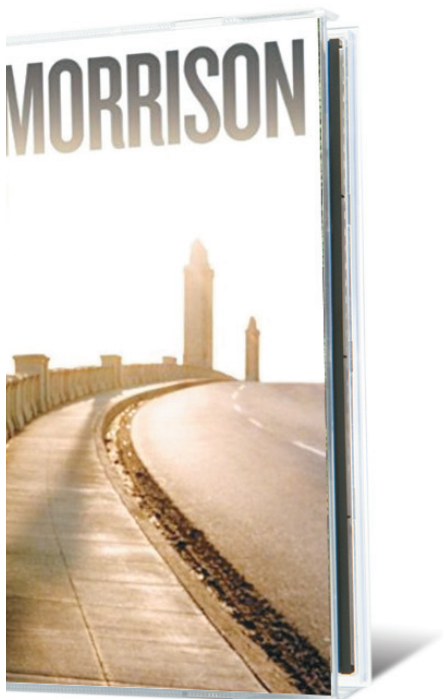


theatre for you. (yes you.)

AS I'M NOT a *Glee* watcher (I only made it partway through the pilot), I can only judge Matthew Morrison's self-titled debut on its own merits, not within any context from the hit TV show. What you have here is a set of 10 songs, featuring three high-profile duets (with Elton John, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Sting), plus a bevy of tunes penned by the singer and a number of collaborators. Morrison—who comes with a Broadway background—has a big, pleasing voice that slides well into the material. His own pop

MORRISON

MORRISON ET AL.



songs are a little lacking, but his turn at standards, including a gorgeous version of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” with Paltrow, impresses the ears. Meanwhile, the duet with Elton John—a medley of “Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters” and “Rocket Man”—has the two voices finding their own on the piece. Elton John’s huskier, deeper tones provide an anchor to Morrison’s lighter, higher voice. Morrison performs at the Orpheum Theatre in Minneapolis on June 18. □

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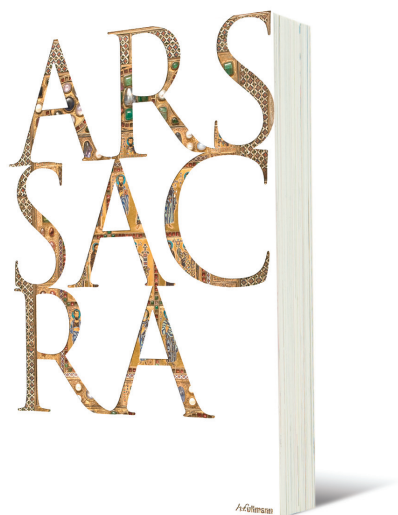
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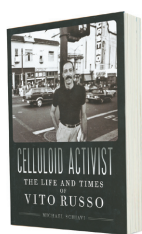


Ars Sacra: Christian Art and Architecture of the Western World

Pub. Rolf Toman; Photography Achim Bednorz

The dimensions (17 1/4" x 11 3/8") of this splendid tome bring the reader face to face with the art treasures within. Photographer Achim Bednorz's meticulous technique of direct, realistic (rather than interpretive) presentation spreads 1,000 photographs over 800 pages. For the first time—for those who haven't seen in person—the reader can pour over the workmanship of enamels, gemstones, and gold working in unprecedented detail, although church architecture itself is the focal point of the book. Toman's promise of "from the very beginning up until today is fulfilled, from late antiquity (300-600 AD) to Gerhard Richter's random generator-designed window in the Cologne Cathedral (2007). The text is eminently readable, and the whole is a feast for the eye and spirit.

h.f.ullmann • \$199

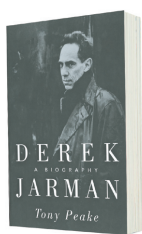


Celluloid Activist: The Life and Times of Vito Russo

Michael Schiavi

Schiavi has used interviews—more than 200—to build, like a slowly accreting, living coral reef, a portrait of the life and, yes, the times of gay-rights icon Vito Russo (1946-1990). From Russo's tumultuous childhood through his growing up, his emerging sexuality, and his work as an AIDS activist, Schiavi sounds Russo's own creed of friendship, inextricably mixed with homosexuality and politics. As Russo himself acknowledged, he realized that "you don't change people by changing laws, and that the way you reach people was through media." For him, one of the most potent forms of media was film. His immersion in film led to his seminal study, *The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies* (1981). Both books are highly recommended.

University of Wisconsin Press • \$29.95



Derek Jarman: A Biography

Tony Peake

Derek Jarman's friend, author Peake, continues to serve as literary agent for his subject's estate, his intimate knowledge lending depth and intensity to his meticulously researched biography. Jarman himself possessed an intense personality. As well as being a passionate gardener all his life, he wore the hats of author, diarist, set designer, film director—11 features, including *Sebastiane* (1976), *Jubilee* (1979), and *Caravaggio* (1986). In addition to being perhaps Britain's most controversial film director, Jarman was an ardent AIDS activist. Before succumbing to that disease, he created his famous shingle cottage-garden, Prospect Cottage, in the shadow of Dungeness nuclear power station. University of Minnesota Press has also published numerous volumes of Jarman's diaries.

University of Minnesota Press • \$24.95



The Vintage Modern Home

Katherine Sorrell

Everybody has stuff, and some have stuff *and* money. For the former, and those latter who want to hang onto some loot, Sorrell's *The Vintage Modern Home* is a treasure trove of methods of working-around. Without promising totally painless or cash-free redecorating, Sorrell proposes that "the problem is almost always this: how best to combine furnishings from different sources and in different styles?" She soothes the reader with, "I take a down-to-earth attitude to decorating, and my favorite ideas are those that are both chic and cheap." Her chapters on specific principles are followed by handsomely illustrated "case studies" of specific homes. Be of good cheer: That unacknowledged elephant in the room may blossom into your elephant célèbre

Merrell • \$39.95 □

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June 21, 7-9 p.m.
Features authors and poets from Intermedia Arts' *Queer Voices* reading series in the past year.

Queer Twin Cities
June 23, 6-8 p.m.
Features several authors from *Queer Twin Cities*. Program also will include a slideshow, video clips and Q&A session.

These programs are funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

www.hcilib.org

Hennepin County Library



Intermedia Arts



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RAINBOW HEALTH INITIATIVE PHOTO CONTEST



THIS YEAR, Rainbow Health Initiative (RHI) hosted the third-annual statewide Photo Contest focused on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) impressions of personal and professional healthy lifestyles.

LGBTQ people living in Minnesota have myriad ways to be healthy, vibrant, active members of the community. For youth and young adults, however, it is often hard to find healthy adult role models.

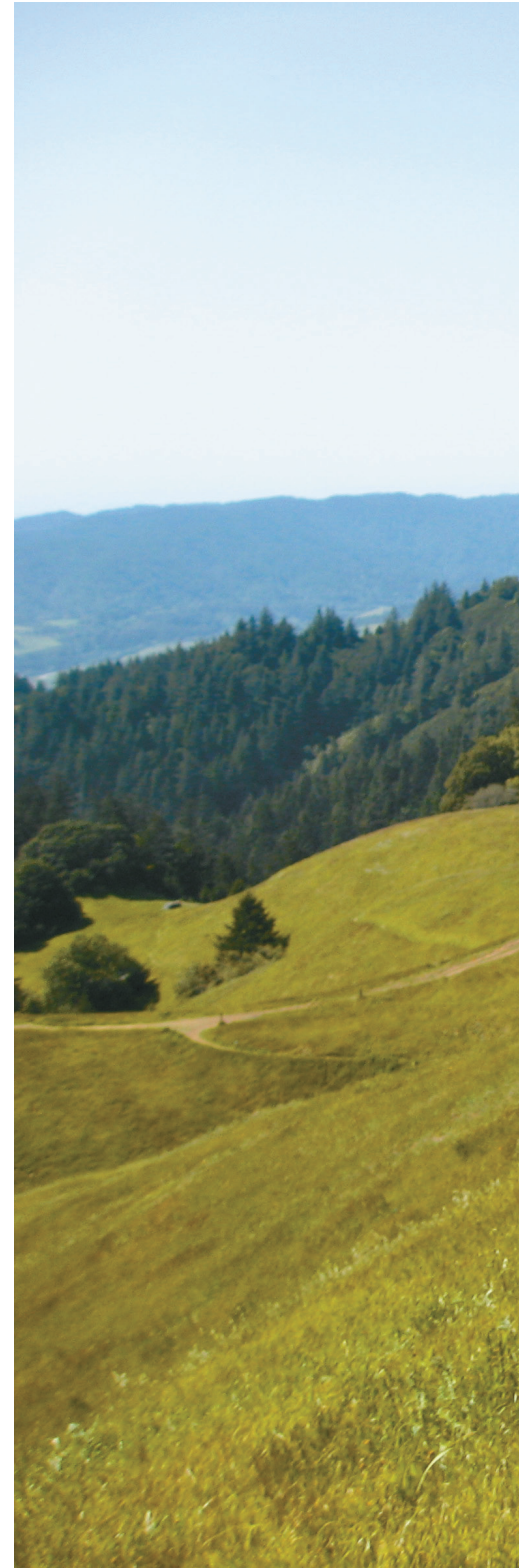
This is in part because of societal discrimination against and stigmatization of homosexuality, along with legal discrimination against same-sex relationships. Yet, it is also in part because of the closeted lifestyles these folks often live, fearing discovery, loss of employment or housing, and isolation from friends or family.

This high stress level often can lead to risk-taking behaviors that may result in negative health consequences.

In order to combat the often negative and unhealthy images of LGBTQ individuals and families portrayed in society, RHI has utilized a fun and fabulous method of collecting healthy, engaging, and storytelling images of LGBTQ people living in Minnesota to project a different version of health to the public.

Select winning entries will be used in a variety of media and marketing to portray healthy LGBTQ lifestyles in Minnesota.

For more information, visit <www.rainbowhealth.org/photocontest>.





GRAND PRIZE WINNER *AND SHE LEAPS*, by Sally Nixon—"...IT IS SUCH A BLESSING TO FIND A PLACE WITHIN WHERE WE FEEL FREE TO EXPRESS OURSELVES THROUGH MOVEMENT AND JUST LETTING LOOSE..." 

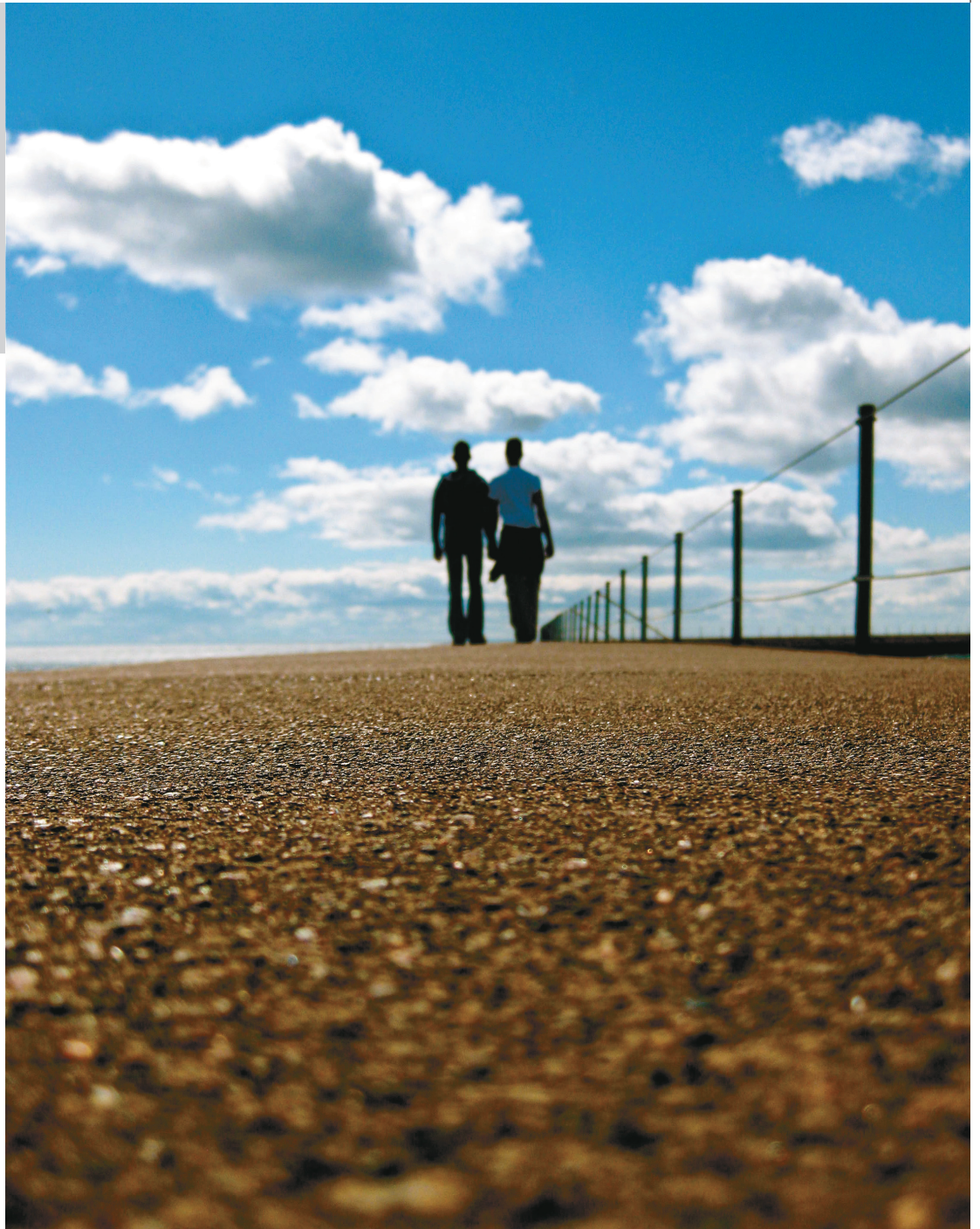


**RHI AD
FAVORITE**

TOGETHER

**WE WALK, by
Cade Bittner—**

"TOGETHER,
WE WALK.
HAND-IN-HAND.
NOT ONLY TO
EXERCISE AND
BE PHYSICAL,
BUT TO
MENTALLY WALK
TOGETHER
TOWARDS A
FUTURE OF
EQUALITY."



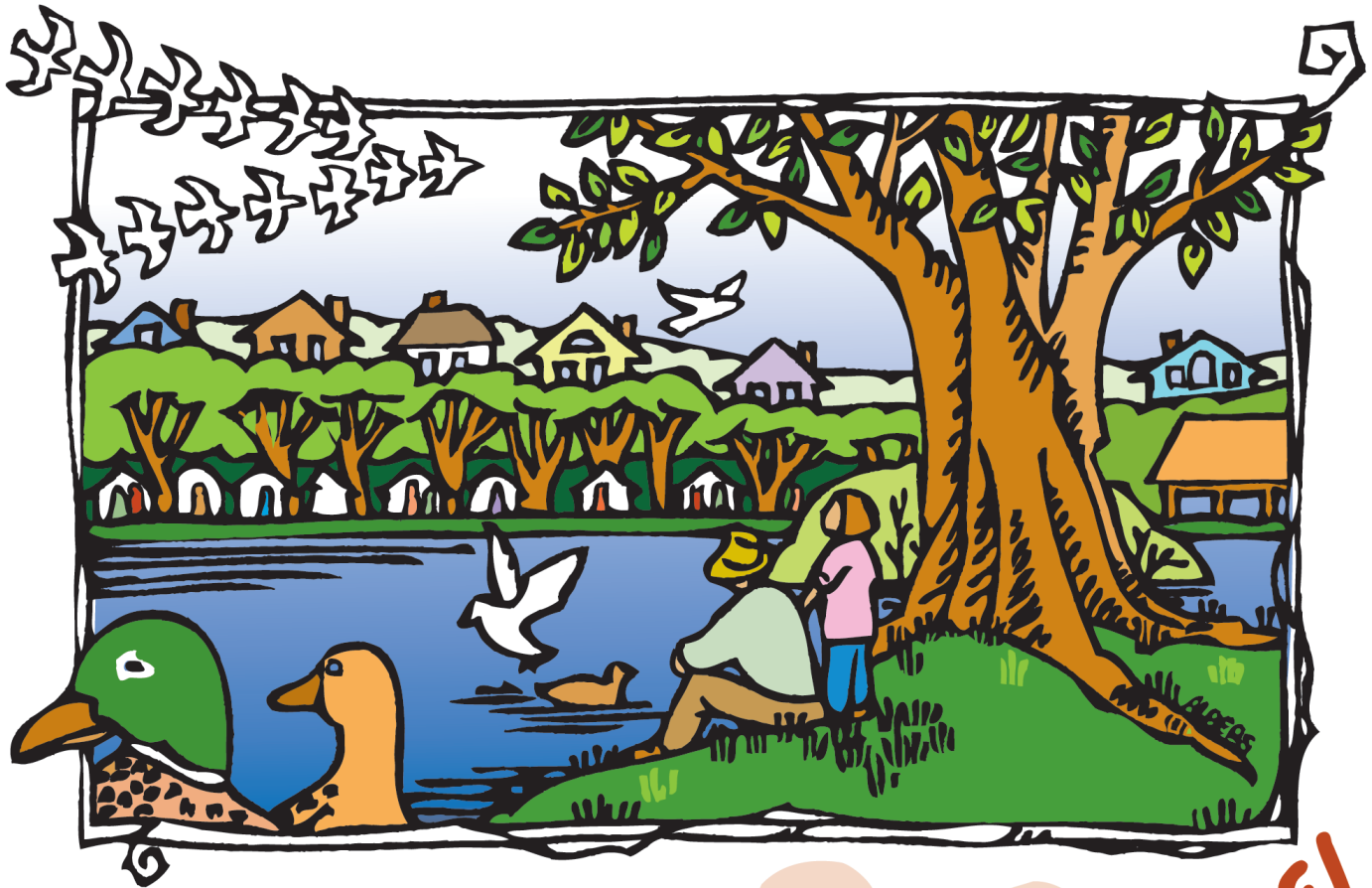
COMMUNITY PICK **SLEEPING BEAUTY, by Lorri Burchett—**

"WE LIVE A SMOKE-FREE LIFE, AND THIS FACT IS NOT ONLY REFLECTED IN
THE DAILY HUSTLE AND BUSTLE, BUT ALSO IN THE QUIET MOMENTS..."



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This year's 20th anniversary graphic is by Powderhorn artist Shari Albers, who redesigned the art she created for the 1992 art fair.

proceeds fund park programs for powderhorn kids • www.powderhornartfair.org

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JUNE 30 Salsa
Salsa del Soul

JULY 7 Country
Kevin Anthony
and the Twin City Playboys

JULY 14 Ballroom
Jerry O'Hagan and his Orchestra

JULY 21 Polka
Craig Ebel & DyVersaCo

JULY 28 Irish
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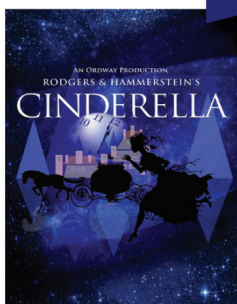


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BEST USE OF RAINBOW ***SPREAD THE RAINBOW***, by Elizabeth Moeller—"...OVERFLOWING WITH PRIDE—FOR MYSELF AND WHO I AM. I CAN BE WHO I AM BECAUSE I HAVE COMMITTED MYSELF TO LIVING A HEALTHY, DRUG/TOBACCO-FREE LIFE."



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!

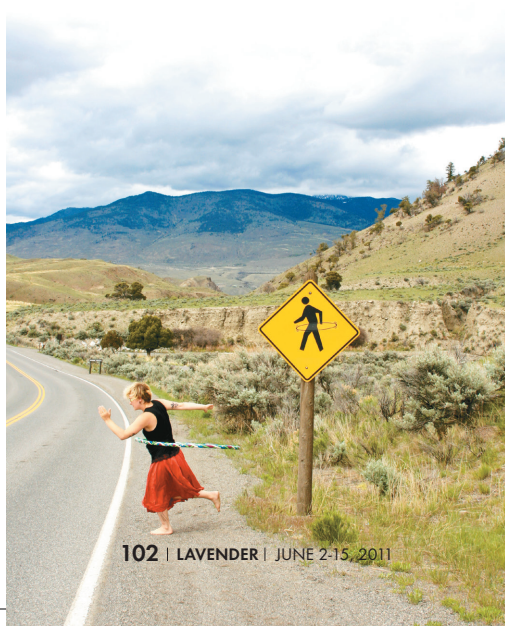
(First Place, Artist Photos)

FRESH ORGANIC, by Mike Wright—"KNOWING WHAT IS IN THE FOOD WE EAT IS VERY IMPORTANT, AND STARTING WITH FRESH, ORGANIC INGREDIENTS IS A GREAT START..."



MOVE YOUR BODY!

(First Place, Artist Photos)
HULA HOOP CROSSING, by Remy Corso—"THIS STICK FIGURE HOOPER CAN BE FOUND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, AND IS GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO TAKE ON ONE OF YOUR FEW, BRIEF, DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES."





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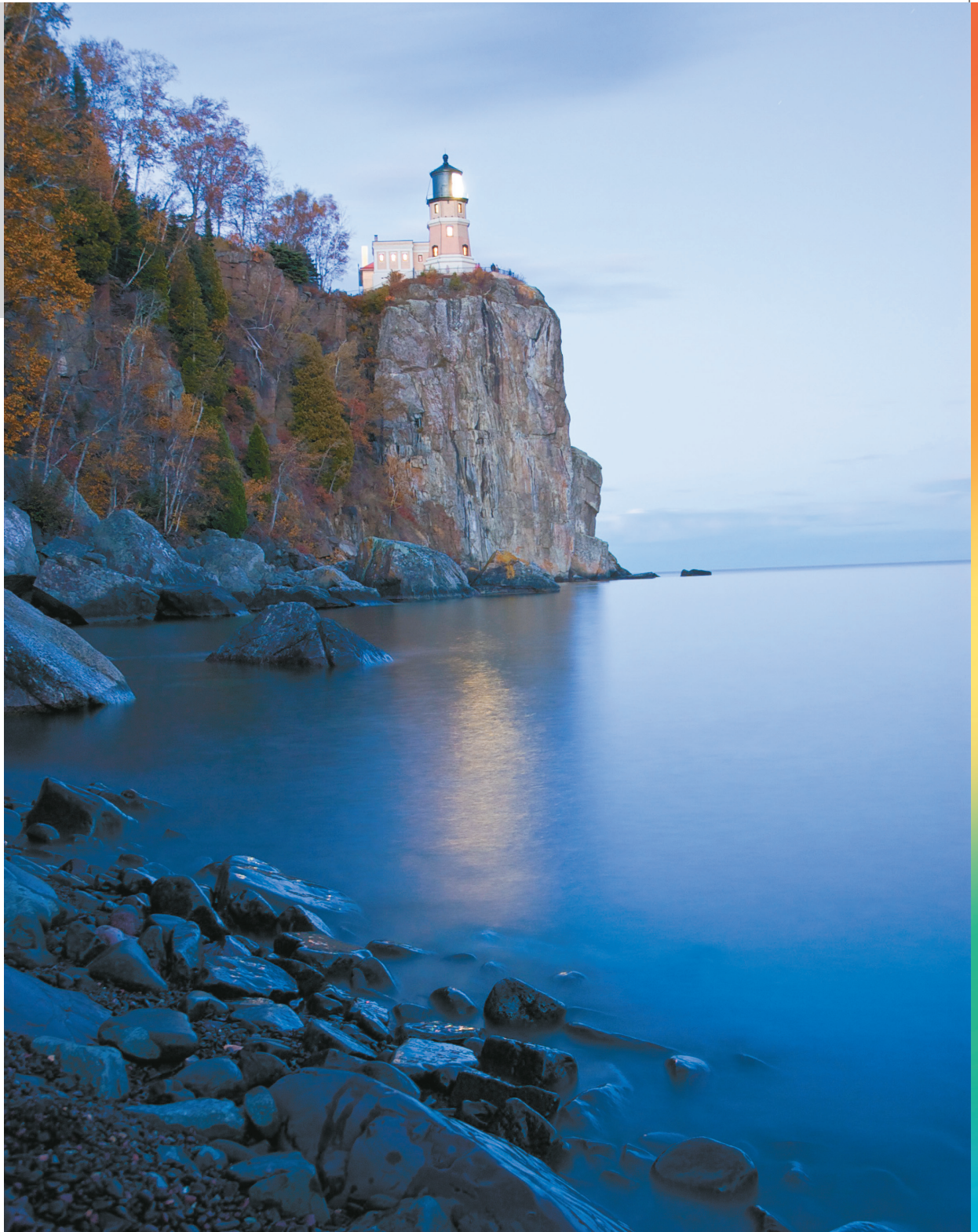


NO SMOKING HERE!

(First Place, Artist Photos)

***SPLIT ROCK AT DUSK*, by Grant Bowers—**

"...THE REWARD IS TOTALLY WORTH THE EFFORT. I WAS THANKFUL THAT MY BOYFRIEND AND I ARE NONSMOKERS WHEN WE WERE TAKING IN THE FRESH AIR..."



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT! (First Place, Amateur Photos)

***KISSES TO GOOD HEALTH*, by Gregory Wilkins—** "YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT! LOTS OF COLOR, LIKE OUR LGBT RAINBOW... EMBRACE THE MOST COLORFUL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES."

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TWIN CITIES PRIDE FESTIVAL

Loring Park in downtown Minneapolis
Saturday, June 25, 10 am - 10 pm
Sunday, June 26, 10 am - 6 pm

ASHLEY RUKES GLBT PRIDE PARADE

Starting at 3rd Street along Hennepin
Ave, Grandstand at 9th
Sunday, June 26, 11 am

RAINBOW RUN

Stone Arch Bridge
to the Park via the
Parade Route
Sunday, June 26, 9 am



Twin Cities Pride



StarTribune
NEWSPAPER OF THE TWIN CITIES



Twin Cities Pride is proud to be a 2011 fiscal year recipient of Festival Support Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is funded, in part, by the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



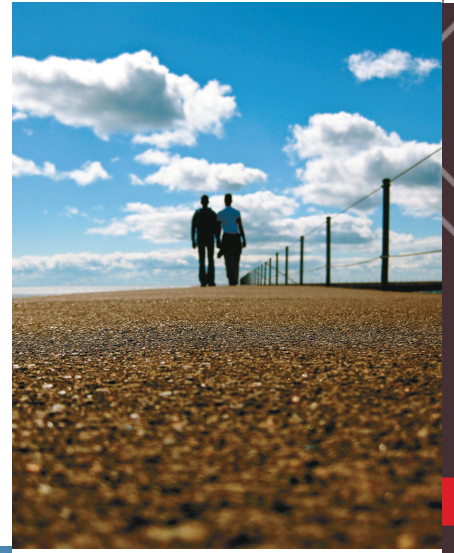


MOVE YOUR BODY!

(First Place, Amateur Photos)

TOGETHER WE WALK, by Cade Bittner—

"TOGETHER, WE WALK. HAND-IN-HAND. NOT ONLY TO EXERCISE AND BE PHYSICAL, BUT TO MENTALLY WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS A FUTURE OF EQUALITY."



NO SMOKING HERE!

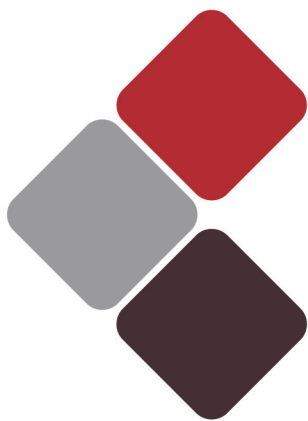
(First Place, Amateur Photos)

SITTING

FRESH, by Sally Nixon—

"...TAKING A MOMENT TO BREATHE IN AN OPEN AND SAFE SPACE HELPS US TO BE THE HEALTHY AND BEAUTIFUL INDIVIDUALS THAT WE ARE..."





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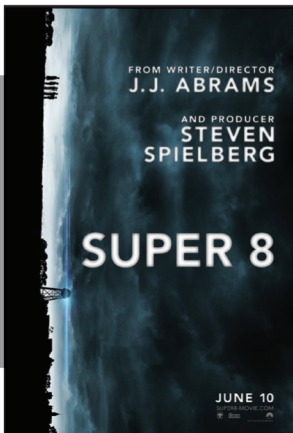
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JUNE 3



JUNE 10



JUNE 17



JUNE 24



JUNE 29



JULY 15

OUT
ON THE TOWN

JUNE



Arsenic and Old Lace. Photo by Michal Daniel



Panic. Photo by Petronella Yisma



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Photo by Donna Kelly

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Note: This calendar includes events formerly in the Bar Calendar.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

Lavender's Summer of Pride Kick-off Party. 5:30-10 PM. Nicollet Island Pavilion, 40 Power St., Nicollet Island, Mpls. (612) 436-4660. <www.lavendermagazine.com/summerofpride>.

Steering Song. Through June 5. Theater Latté Da @ Fitzgerald Theater, 45 E. Exchange St., St. Paul. (800) 982-2787. <www.ticketmaster.com>.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Beyond Therapy. Through June 26. Theatre in the Round Players, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-3010. <www.theatreintheround.org>.

Covers: A Pop Concert. Through June 12. Cantus @ Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE, Mpls. (612) 435-0055. <www.cantussings.org>.

Edina Art Fair. June 3, 10 AM-7 PM. June 4-5, 10 AM-5 PM. W. 50th St. & and France Ave. S. <www.edinaartfair.com>.

Give Me Change. Benefits Wells Foundation. 7 PM. St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove St., Mpls. (952) 525-2237. <www.wellsfound.org>.

Itasca GLBTA Alliance Pride Picnic. 5 PM. Veterans Memorial Park, Grand Rapids, MN.

Knights of Leather Tournament. 23. <www.knightsofleather.org> or <tournament@knightsofleather.org>.

North Star Classic Tennis Tournament. Through June 5. Baseline Tennis Center, University of Minnesota. <<http://www.glassports.org/ncntytennis.htm>> or <mnrallistennis@yahoo.com>.

Youth Pride in the Park. 4 PM. Loring Park, Mpls.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

20% Theatre Annual Gala. 6:30 PM. Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. <www.tctwentypercent.org>.

Bach Tage. Through June 5. Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 827-5919. <www.mountolivechurch.org>.

Bears Uncorked: All Up In My Grill. 6 PM. Joe's house, Apple Valley (directions e-mailed upon registration). Register @ <www.ncbears.com>.

Broadway and Movie Show Tunes Extravaganza. Imperial Court of Minnesota benefit for Project for Pride in Living. 5 PM. Gay 90's, 408 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. <www.impcourtmn.com>.

Cedar Rapids Pride Fest. Cedar Rapids, IA. <www.crglrc.org>.

Davenport Pride. Noon-Midnight. 2nd & Warren, Downtown Davenport, IA. <www.qcpride.org>.

Global Bake-Off. Noon. Midtown Global Market, 920 E. Lake St., Mpls. (612) 872-4041. <www.midtownglobalmarket.org>.

Lip Service. 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

Local Author Event: Jessie Chandler. 1 PM. Borders Bookstore, 3577 River Rapids Dr. NW, Coon Rapids. <www.jessiechandler.com>.

Minneapolis Mosaic Opening Night. 7 PM. Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. <www.minneapolismosaic.com>.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

East Central Minnesota Pride. Noon. Voyageur Park, Pine City, MN. "East Central Minnesota Pride" on Facebook.

Grand Old Day. 7:45 AM. Grand Ave., St. Paul. <www.grandave.com>.

Minnesota Lynx Home Game: Lynx vs. Sparks. 2:30 PM. Target Center, Mpls. <www.wnba.com/lynx>.

Northern Lights Women's Softball League Games. 2:25 PM. Taft Park No. 1 & No. 2, Richfield.

Spotlight Showcase. 7 PM. Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (800) 982-2787. <www.hennepintheatretrust.org>.

MONDAY, JUNE 6

Queer Music Consortium Pride Concert. Calliope Women's Chorus, Minnesota Freedom Band, Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, One Voice Mixed Chorus, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. 6 PM. Como Park Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy., St. Paul. <www.ovmc.org>.

The Importance of Being Earnest Screening. 7:30 PM. Guthrie Theater. 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <www.guthrietheater.org>.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Minnesota Lynx Home Game: Lynx vs. Shock. 7 PM. Target Center, Mpls. <www.wnba.com/lynx>.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Sound Unseen International Duluth Film and Music Festival. Through June 12. <www.soundunseeniduluth.com>.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

AfterLife. Through June 11. Red Eye Theater, 15 W. 14th St., Mpls. (612) 870-0309. <www.redeyetheater.org>.

Children and Other Optical Illusions. Through June 11. Open Eye Figure Theatre, 506 E. 24th St., Mpls. <www.brownpapertickets.com> or <www.openeyetheatre.org>.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Bang Boom Crash! Through June 11. One Voice Mixed Chorus @ In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St., Mpls. (651) 298-1954. <www.ovmc.org>.

Bare Bears in the Woods. <www.ncbears.com>.

Capital City Pride. Through June 13. Des Moines, IA. <www.capitalcitypride.com>.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Through June 26. Minneapolis Musical Theatre @ Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.aboutmmt.org>.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum. Through July 24. Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-7063. <www.jungletheater.com>.

Milwaukee Pride. Through June 12. Milwaukee, WI. <www.pridefest.com>.

Pride Grand Marshal Reception and Art Show Awards. 5:30 PM. The Art Institutes International Minnesota, 15 S. 9th St., Mpls. <www.tcpride.org>.

The Vagabond King. Through June 18. Skylark Opera @ E.M. Pearson Theatre, Concordia University, 312

CALENDAR

On The Town.

Photo by Charles Gorrell



Covers.

Photo by Curtis Johnson



Fe/Male.

Photo by Simon Stromberg

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

N. Hamline Ave., St. Paul. (612) 343-3390. <www.ticketworks.com>.

YOLO. 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

25th Anniversary Performance, Parade, Block Party, and Cabaret Show. 3 PM. Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 721-3595. <www.patrickscabaret.org>.

North Star Gay Rodeo Association Dance. 8 PM. James Ballentine VFW, 2916 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. <www.nsga.org>.

On the Town. Through June 19. Skylark Opera @ E.M. Pearson Theatre, Concordia University, 312 N. Hamline Ave., St. Paul. (612) 343-3390. <www.ticketworks.com>.

Rev. Mark Kiyimba, from Kampala, Uganda. 9:30 AM. Unity Church-Unitarian, 732 Holly Ave., St. Paul. (651) 228-1456. <www.unityunitarian.org>.

TNT Show. 9 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Summer Samba. 4 PM & 7:30 PM. Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-7063. <www.jungltheater.com>.

MONDAY, JUNE 13

JP Fitzgibbons. Also June 20. Zeitgeist Studio Z, 275 E. 4th St., St. Paul. (800) 838-3006. <www.brownpapertickets.com/event/167984>.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

Planned Parenthood Event with The Daily Show Co-creator Lizz Winstead. 5:30 PM. Solera Restaurant, 900 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 821-6106. <www.ppaction.org>.

Summer Institute in Spirituality and the Arts. Through June 17. United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 3000 5th St. NW, New Brighton. (651) 255-6138. <www.unitedseminary.edu>.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

Movies and Music Series. 8:30 PM. Northrop Auditorium Plaza, University of Minnesota, 84 Church St. SE, Mpls. (612) 625-6600. <www.northrop.umn.edu/event/summer-music-festival-northrop-2011>.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

25th Anniversary Celebration. 1 PM. Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie. RSVP to <nicky-simon-burton@pride-institute.com>. (612) 267-9371.

Genderf*kation! A Gender Emancipation. World premiere. 7:30 PM. St. Anthony Main Theater, Mpls.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Alexandra Billings in Concert. Through June 18. Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. (612) 353-6781. <www.loringtheater.com>.

Beginners. Opens today. Uptown Theatre, 2906 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 392-0402. <www.landmarktheatres.com/market/minneapolis/uptowntheatre.htm>

Dragged Out. 9:30 PM. Town House, 1415 University Ave. W., St. Paul. (651) 646-7087. <www.townhousebar.com>.

Panic. Through July 10. Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul. (651) 291-7005. <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

Pride Night with the Minnesota Lynx. Lavender Reader Special. 7 PM. Target Center, Mpls. Carley Knox @ (612) 673-8408 or <knox@lynxbasketball.com>.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Pride Boat Cruise. Boarding 12:30 PM. Departing 1 PM. Stillwater, MN, on St. Croix River. <www.tcpride.org>.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Pride Family Picnic. 11 AM. East Picnic Pavilions, Como Park, St. Paul. <www.tcpride.org>.

Singles Pool Tournament. 4 PM. 19 Bar, 19 W. 15th St., Mpls. (612) 871-5553.

ONGOING

Alexa Horochowski: Cloud Cave. Through July 4. Burnet Art Gallery, Le Méridien Chambers Minneapolis, 901 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 767-6900. <www.lemeridienchambers.com>.

Arsenic and Old Lace. Through June 5. Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <www.guthrietheater.org>.

David Malcolm Scott: Minnesota/West. Through July 9. Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Floor, Mpls. (612) 332-2978. <www.ninabliesegallery.com>.

Dinner with the Tsars: Imperial Russian Porcelain. Through Aug. 7. The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 821-9045. <www.tmore.org>.

Esperanza. Through July 28. Reception June 9, 12:30 PM. Gordon Parks Gallery, Library and Learning Center, Metropolitan State University, 645 E. 7th St., St. Paul. Erica at (651) 793-1631. <Erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu>.

Fe/Male. Through June 5. Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 871-4444. <www.intermediarts.org>.

God of Carnage. Through Aug. 7. Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <www.guthrietheater.org>.

Got it Made. Through June 12. Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 825-0459. <www.gotitmadeproductions.web.com>.

In the Red and Brown Water. Through June 4. Guthrie Dowling Studio, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <www.guthrietheater.org>.

The Marvelous Wondrettes. Through July 24. Plymouth Playhouse, 2705 Annapolis Ln. N., Plymouth. (763) 553-1600. <www.plymouthplayhouse.com>.

Nan Golden's The Ballad of Sexual Dependency. Through Oct. 16. Part of exhibition *Exposed: Voyeurism, Surveillance, and the Camera Since 1870.* Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (712) 375-7600. <www.walkerart.org>.

Ovo. Through June 19. Cirque du Soleil @ Mall of America, Bloomington. <www.cirquedusoleil.com/ovo>.

Pride Art Exhibition. Through June 10. The Art Institutes International Minnesota. 15 S. 9th St., Mpls. <www.tcpride.org>.

Sarah Palin's Minnesota; or Hind-sight is 2011. Through June 24. Brave New Workshop, 2605 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 332-6620. <www.bravenewworkshop.com>.

Shades of Red: The Evolution of Early Soviet Art. Through Sept 15. The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 821-9045. <www.tmore.org>.

That Face. Through June 18. 20% Theatre Twin Cities @ Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls. (612) 227-1188. <www.tctwentypercent.org>.

Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs. Through Sept. 5. Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. (651) 221-9444. <www.smm.org>.



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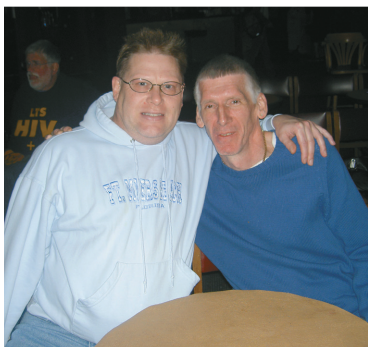
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50TH STREET CAFÉ

Pearson's is reincarnated into a new establishment serving a scrumptious breakfast and dinner menu.

If you were a fan of Pearson's—one of the few restaurants in Edina that still faithfully served its brand of Scandinavian nostalgia—the faded signs in the parking lot are not your only physical link to the past. It has been sold and renamed, with the dining room partitioned into two separate businesses. Other than that, the newly christened 50th Street Café retains the Pearson's original 1973 vibe, with brown vinyl booths, dark wood, and far-out

(Facing page, from left) Chef Phil dressing up the pancakes; dining area. (This page) El Cubano Sandwich with tater tots. Photos by Hubert Bonnet

lighting fixtures. I was just thrilled to be in a place that has a little bit of soul, and hasn't replaced it all with blond wood and chrome. It doesn't hurt that the vintage 1970s decor makes me feel a whole lot younger.

I actually toyed with writing this piece as if I were hung over, because honestly, this is the perfect spot for a part-time weekend soak to start the day. The lighting isn't too bright, the staff is friendly without being chirpy, and the menu has all the comfort food you need to make last night seem like it never happened. I'm not sure the Edina crowd uses the 50th Street Café for the purpose of soaking up last night's martinis, but they should. Alas, I was not hung over when I went. Maybe next time.

We started with the Pineapple Upside Down Pancakes (\$6.50). I'm always surprised when otherwise sane people are extremely fussy about their pancakes, but I *do* notice when they're done well. Everyone has a preferred thickness and consistency. In this case, I lucked out. I like them not too thick, not too thin, delicate and fluffy, but with some bite. Voila!—the 50th Street Café's pancakes. In this dish containing sweet pineapple, they are bathed in a tantalizing homemade vanilla cream sauce, and are served with a small scoop of cinnamon-laced butter. You can get a single cake for just \$4, which may be all you need—the pancakes are full-dinner-plate size.

The Apple Streusel Pancake is still officially off-menu, but available as a special until it makes its formal debut. Crunchy streusel topping, a drizzle of caramel, and that same life-affirming cinnamon butter make for a decadent treat my dining partner described thus: It's like a cinnamon roll that has been unrolled and pressed flat. Benefits to the shape shift are that it's a lot more



moist, and the streusel and caramel are distributed evenly. I suffer from lack of a sweet tooth, but even I was drawn in by this one.

The Carnita Benedict (\$9.50) manages

to straddle Edina and Mexico, and come up right in the middle—probably somewhere around Oklahoma. There's not a lot you can't love about pulled pork, refried ➔



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FOOD |



Carnita Benedict.

black beans, and mild pico de gallo piled on a homey buttermilk biscuit. Throw a couple of eggs on top and a ladle of hollandaise sauce, and yeah...you're pretty much good. I appreciated that the carnita wasn't also covered with a thick, gooey skin of melted cheese—a lot of breakfast places simply go overboard on the stuff, with the result that you can't enjoy much else.

Both the Carnita Benedict and the Cajun Breakfast (\$9.50) are served with hash browns—the shoestring kind you fantasize about at 3 AM. Crispy on top, soft and buttery in the middle, they may take up half the plate, but somehow manage to disappear by the time the check arrives. The Cajun Breakfast (peppers, onions, and mushrooms topped with a *healthy* amount of cheddar cheese, over-easy eggs, a dash of Cajun spices, and hollandaise sauce) has a little more bite to it than the Carnita, but unless you can't abide any spice at all, I'd still categorize it as mild. ➔





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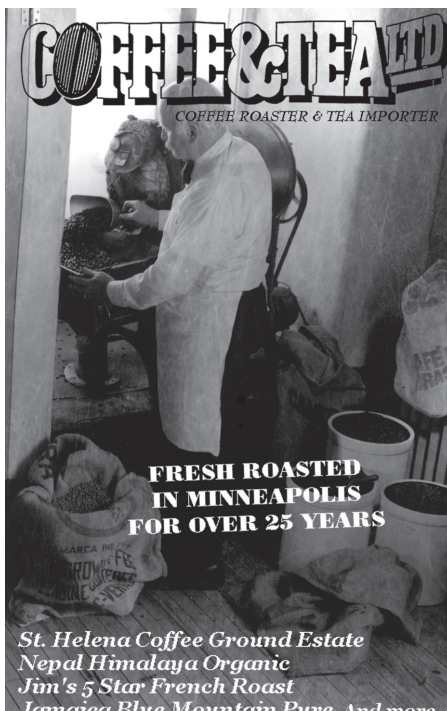
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FOOD

We probably dwelled on breakfast a little too long to appreciate the lunch menu fully, but the El Cubano (\$9) is a real sweetheart of a sandwich, with ham, pulled pork, pepper-jack cheese, mustard, and pickles on a ciabatta hoagie roll, served with sweet potato tater tots. If you decide to eat the tots, be cautious—after tasting them, regular tater tots will never be quite as satisfying as they once were. The dipping sauce is a little sweet, but it's optional.

If the owner's decision to retain the original Pearson's decor wasn't enough of an indication, the café does place a high priority on recycling and reducing its carbon footprint. Additionally, it may *look* and *act* like an old-fashioned diner, but one can find organic, fair-trade coffee, plus decent options for vegetarians. □

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[**BEST TABLES**] by Carla Waldemar

Need to impress? In many a restaurant, there are tables, and then there are Tables. Waltz in cold, and you may well end up seated beside the kitchen door. Instead, act like an insider, and ask for these coveted seats when you make your reservation.



BASIL'S
When dining at Basil's, the dining lodestone of the IDS Tower, leave those boring four-tops for middle managers who don't know the ropes. The one you want is the two-seater in the middle of the balcony overlooking the Crystal Court below. Yup, it's Mary Tyler Moore's table: Never catch her twisting fettuccine around her fork from the back row—plus, no room there to toss her tam.

FOREPAUGH'S
Since the renovation of Forepaugh's, the place looks less like a faded Valentine and more like a classy destination. Still, some tables are more equal than others, as Orwell would profess. To avoid the proles, insist on the window-side two-top in the third floor's Sibley Room, with views of Irvine Park, or the similar deal—fewer steps—in the second floor's Ramsey Room, whose windows capture Downtown's city lights.

GATHERING
At Walker Art Center's hypertrendy lunch Mecca, Gathering, the only seat that really matters is the one filling the signature promontory dangling over Hennepin Avenue, capturing the street action below. It's also the only one where it's quiet enough to whisper sweet nothings (like "Just sign the contract here"), while rating the new menu.

PETER'S GRILL
This one works best for

lunch, especially with out-of-towners to impress. Walk into Peter's Grill, and just say, "Over there—where Bill Clinton sat." (A plaque verifies the hallowed stool.) Gotta have the famous apple pie that he forked up while he autographed the menu.

PORTER & FRY
Say "the red booth, please," and the voice on the phone at the Hotel Ivy's Porter & Fry melts from crisp to cooing. While the rest of the room—sorry!—looks like the company cafeteria, the red booth, in its own private alcove, separates moguls from mere mortals. Complimentary flutes of champagne have been known to appear.

STRIP CLUB
From downstairs, the Strip Club looks like your average blue-collar bar and grill, and that's fine for a night with the office peons. But slip up the stairs for VIP seating on the tiny balcony, and you're in a private bor-



Porter & Fry.
Photo by Hubert Bonnet

dello, with terrific views of St. Paul's city lights as a sidelight to your steak.

URBAN EATERY
The view at Calhoun Beach Club's Urban Eatery isn't all that ooh-ooh, unless you're sitting lakeside in high summer (which won't happen this year, it seems). So, get cozy in the curvy, round booth in the back corner (there's only one, and you deserve it), from which to survey the wannabes wondering who you are (or who you know). □



The Strip Club. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



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[BLUEBERRY SAPPHIRE WEDDING DAY PIE] by John Michael Lerma



Photos Courtesy of John Michael Lerma



I created this pie specifically for the 2011 National Pie Championships, where Darren McGrady, former Chef to the Royal Family, tasted and commented on the creations inspired by the recent Royal Wedding. Whether it's that event or GLBT Pride, this is the perfect summer pie.

CRUST

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 tablespoon white granulated sugar
1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
1/4 cup cold Crisco butter-flavored shortening, chilled and cut into small pieces
1/4 cup unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small pieces
1/4 cup cold water
1/2 cup blueberry jam or preserves
Cooking spray

1. All ingredients should be cold. Combine all the dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl.

Add shortening and butter. Using a pastry blender, cut in the shortening and butter until the mixture resembles course meal.

2. Drop by drop, add the cold water. Mix in with fingertips, not hands, as palms will warm the dough. Continue mixing water in until the dough begins to hold together without being sticky, but not crumbly.

3. Lightly spray a deep 9-inch white ceramic pie dish, allowing the excess pastry to hang over the edge. Roll out the dough, and place in a pie plate. Chill in the freezer for 10 minutes.

4. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Line the pastry shell with parchment and baking beans or beads. Bake the shell for 10 minutes. Remove the paper and beans/beads, and return to the oven for 10 more minutes. Spread jam over bottom and sides of warm piecrust. Cool. Makes pastry for 9-inch single-crust pie.

CREAM CHEESE LAYER

1 (8 oz.) package of cream cheese, softened
1 cup confectioner's sugar

Using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Gently spread cream cheese mixture over jam layer.

FILLING

3/4 cup granulated white sugar
1/4 cup cornstarch
1/4 cup water
4 1/2 cups blueberries (if frozen, thaw and drain first)

1. Mix sugar and cornstarch with water. In a heavy bottom saucepan, cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until the mixture begins to thicken.

2. Reduce heat to low. Fold in blueberries and cook, stirring gently until blueberries are well blended into thickened mixture. Remove from heat, and cool completely. Carefully spoon

cooled blueberry mixture over cream cheese layer. Top with Sweetened Whipped Topping.

TOPPING

1 1/4 cups heavy whipping cream
3 tablespoons confectioner's sugar
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract or paste
Blueberries for decorating

1. Whisk or beat heavy cream until it begins to thicken. Gradually add confectioner's sugar and vanilla. Continue beating until stiff peaks form. Pipe decorative peaks in an orderly fashion, topping each peak with a blueberry.

2. Finish wedding pie with decorative ribbon around the outer edge of a ceramic pie dish. Glue inside to pie dish if necessary. Using center holder, place engagement ring in center of pie, and serve to guests. Serves 8-10 unless cut into smaller servings. □

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[**THE WEDGE CO-OP**] by Carla Waldemar

Is this Lunds? Kowalski's? Whole Foods? Nope. Those for-profit grocery stores are its competitors. This is The Wedge, a member-owned food co-op, as classy as all the above. The big difference is, the co-op partners with its growers and suppliers to assure great food at great prices on your table, while providing producers with a fair price achieved through dialogue and trust. Same goes for its 250-strong paid staff (it's not run by volunteers—a misconception). All receive living wages, good benefits, and discounts.

Members, today 15,000 strong, receive discounts, too. Even more vital, they get a vote in how the store is managed, all for a one-time, \$80 fee (easily recovered via 18 months of shopping). Plus, they receive shares of the annual profit, based on their spending.

You don't have to be a member to shop here, no siree. The sign above the door reads, "Everyone welcome every day," and they mean it.

"It's a community center, like an old-fashioned post office where people congregate," General Manager Lindy Bannister says. "As people shop, they stop and chat with each other and the staff. We call it The Wedge Shuffle," she laughs.

They shuffle to the tune of 2,700 transactions a day—the grandpa living alone and lonely; the movie stars passing through town; the tattooed bike messenger stopping for a take-out mac and cheese or pizza from the deli counter; and the socialite in for a fancy-schman-cy party cake. The Wedge operates its own in-house bakery, source of everything yummy, from baguettes to bagels.

Countering another misconception, Bannister maintains that shopping here does not cost more. Costs less, in fact, as she

proves through reports from mystery-shopping the competition. "The past 18 months' price increases to us haven't been passed on, either," she can boast. "Nor do we beat up our vendors to keep costs low, like in a conventional supermarket," she emphasizes.

Close relationships with producers are its cornerstone. The Wedge even owns its own farm, Gardens of Eden, and encourages its workers to start incubator farms of their own. Close inspection is key, too, to assure foodstuffs are as organic as possible—though not every item is, or can be, so-certified. Staffers visit farms to assure correct feeding, humane slaughtering, cleanliness, and safe handling, among other essentials.

Scallops are diver-harvested and fish line-caught, including by some of Bannister's favorite fellows in Tobago, "who work for us unless the day's too nice, when they don't work at all. I love them!" she enthuses.

Candy bars? No. No customer demand. Chips and soda? Sure, although probably not the brands advertised on TV.

"Our customers tell us what they want—we don't tell them," Bannister asserts. "We present options, and let them make their choices"—like which milk pro-



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

ducer to support, when given the facts about two rival suppliers. "We're not the food police," she states.

OK—other than the cops, then—what The Wedge is: all things to all people, through cooperation. □

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 4: Soul Friday (On Sat.)
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A dance party created for queer women of color and friends. Everybody welcome. One community! Soul Food served all night!

JUNE 16: Genderf*kation
AFTER PARTY | 10pm-2am | 21+ | \$5
Featuring Queer Cabaret directed by Esmé Rodriguez
Followed by dance party with DJ Alent Orange!

JUNE 23: Kick off your Pride Weekend with Soul Friday (On Thurs.)
9pm-2am | 21+ | \$5 door cover
A dance party created for queer women of color and friends. Everybody welcome. One community! Soul Food served all night!

JUNE 25: Grown and Sexy
9pm-2am | 21+ | \$7 door cover
DJ Shannon Blowtorch, Sweetpea, and Nadine Dubois present the hottest event of Twin Cities PRIDE!
*Birthday celebration for Shannon and Nadine!

JUL. 1 & 3: 999 Eyes/ Inflammati Fire Circus Sideshow
9pm-2am | 21+ | \$5 door cover
"It's all deliciously over the top with a style that unabashedly draws from General Guignol."
-John Townsend of Minneapolis Star Tribune

Pride Advice

Jeepers! It's Pride again!

Welcome to the time of year when our Family, that big ol' LG-BTQA...XYZ group, comes out to play in a great big celebration of reflection and empowerment.

Many of you reading this are seasoned Pride veterans. You've danced, drank, took pictures, drank, met new friends, drank, and then regretted those tags on Facebook, for years. You've partied at the greatest Prides in America, and now you're gearing up to bring in another year of being who you are—proudly.

This will be my first Pride in the Twin Cities. I've lived here a year-and-a-half, but I missed last year, 'cause my burfday is July 2, and I traveled away for it in 2010. I'll ring in 25 with my Minneapolis Family this year, though, and I'm pumped.

To prepare for Pride 2011, I sat down with a few witty friends to get the lowdown on some tips for navigating Pride successfully.

Our tragically telling conversation follows. Remember, let ye without sin....

Justin Hey, guys! I have Cheetos fingers. [Meeting recesses.] OK, so, hey, team! What are some tips for having a fun Pride this year?

Martyn Wear sunscreen!

Justin Off to a great start! Thanks, Martyn!

Martyn Justin, that doesn't mean lotion you use in the tanning salon. You need to use something that *protects* your skin.

Justin [Cough] Moving on. Brandon?

Brandon Sunday morning mimosa "brunch" becomes Sunday morning mimosa "breakfast." The parade starts at 11, so you gotta start early.

Justin Drink early. Check plus! Lyle?

Lyle If you experience Pride without meeting any outrageous, awesome, albeit tragically drunk people, you missed Pride. Put it on your calendar next year. By the way, don't use my real name in the magazine, and *do not* use "Lyle" as my alias.

Justin Shouldn't have told me, Lyle. Not one bit. Jordan?

Jordan If you're getting to the Sunday night party late, and you're sober...well, just don't. Also, don't let it bother you if a cop wakes you up at a bus stop the morning after.

Justin Isn't that a normal Tuesday morning for you?

Final Advice: Meet new people, be safe, and have fun.

Can't wait to see everyone at Pride! ☐ ☐



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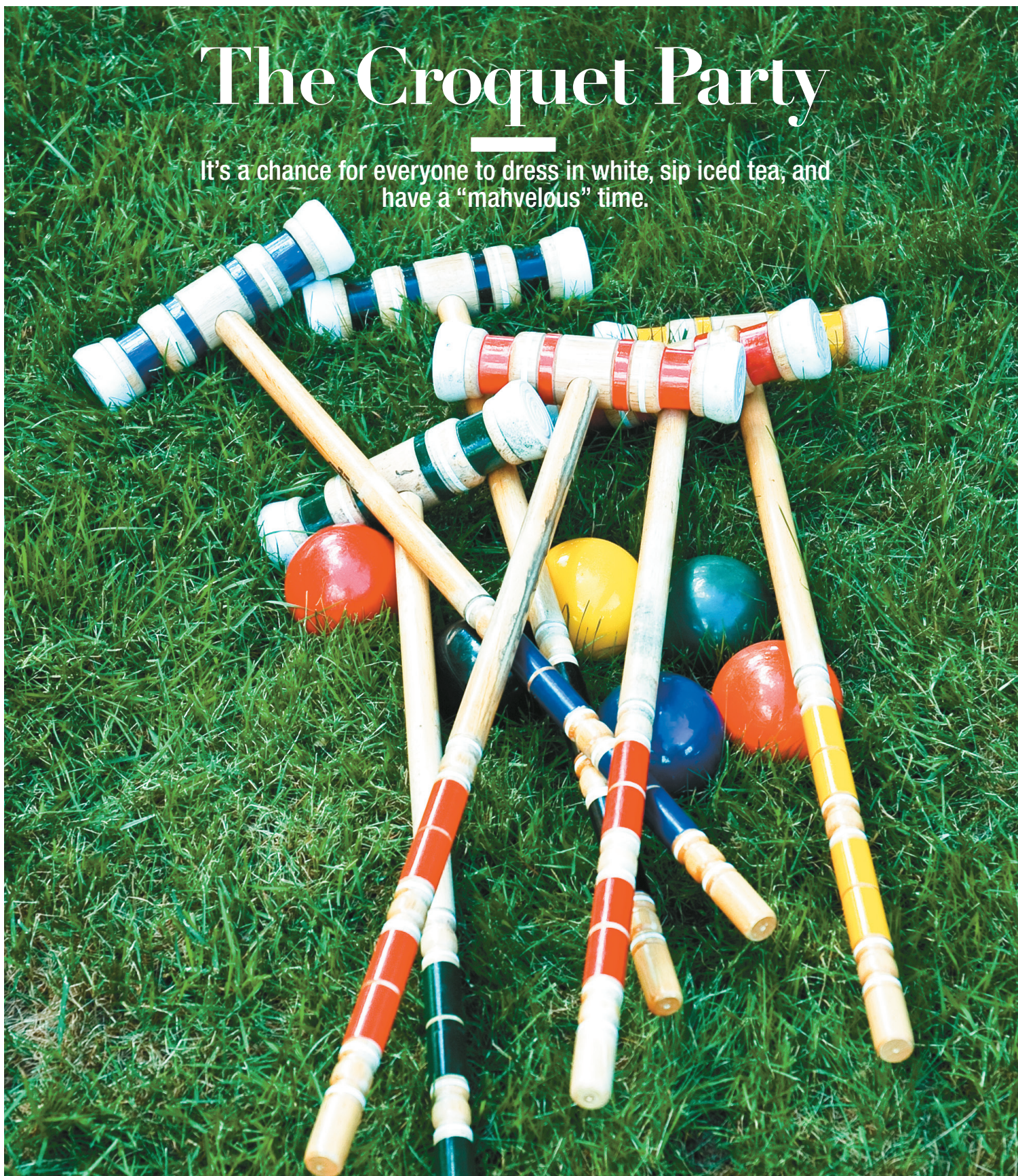
OUT
ON THE TOWN

SOCIALLY SAVVY | by Edward Piechowski & Sean Ryan



The Croquet Party

It's a chance for everyone to dress in white, sip iced tea, and have a "mahvelous" time.



(From left) Guests cheer, iced tea in hand; teams assemble on the lawn of Ms. Begley's home before the tournament begins. Photos by J Gallus Photography



Wickets dot the freshly mowed lawn, and meticulously pressed white linen shirts, pants, and dresses—with matching hats, of course—hang in the dressing room, awaiting their debut. In the kitchen, gallons of tea steep, and cucumbers and lemons are sliced paper-thin. The sunny summer days stretch longer and longer, making the backyard our preferred entertaining venue. Newly budded trees and flowerbeds are the perfect backdrop for the 2011 Croquet Kick-off on fresh green grass.

Bocce may rule the suburban lawn, but nine-wicket croquet is the sport of choice in the city. Each year's host puts his or her unique personality on this annual party. From the food to the decor, the only rules are that everyone must wear white, and iced tea must be served. "I look forward to it every year myself," Donna Hoffman says. "It's an enchanting afternoon with friends."

A long-standing tradition in the Minneapolis-St. Paul social season, the Croquet Kick-off has taken place on many great lawns of the Twin Cities's finest homes. The fabulous Brenda Begley hosted last year's event in a Modern foursquare on a bluff overlooking the Mis-

sissippi River in St. Paul. (She shared these photos with us.) This year's host, Donna Hoffman, has offered the garden of her English Country estate near Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis.

Next year's location has yet to be announced, but an insider hinted that visitors to the Lake Harriet Rose Garden will see a parade of white on the third Sunday in May 2012. (The Sunday before Memorial Day weekend is the day for this party. "It has become apparent that Memorial Day weekend is tough—and June is impossible!" Hoffman says.)

The party features a new host and home each year, each adding his or her own *je ne sais quoi*. Many of those with larger homes are happy to welcome friends and their friends' friends. Potential hosts without a grand home may call upon their club and its staff of caterers to pull the party off. One year, the party was held in Overlook Park adjacent to the University Club in St. Paul, with tea and cocktails in the clubhouse after play. The mix of guests includes everyone from the young up-and-comers to the older and established. It's like a networking group without an agenda—but with a cocktail to share. ➔



(Counterclockwise from upper left) A selection of hat fashions from Heime's Haberdashery; guests take in the game on the sloping lawn; two essentials of the game, iced tea and lemonade. Photos by J Gallus Photography



ASSEMBLING THE GUESTS

The guest list was first established 15 years ago, when two friends, Louise and Edward, hosted a monthly tea from October to April. They wanted an event to formalize the end of their tea season. About 80 percent of the guests come every year, with a rotating cast of characters brought by the invitees. "Everyone is allowed to invite guests," Donna says, "or even to drag a date." Those who attend decide who gets invited the next year. "I just love the mix of people," Donna says. "Extroverts sparkle in crowds, and the quiet observers you've seen all winter come to life."

Invitations go out a week before the event. No one worries about the short notice. It's mostly a formality, because all the regular attendees marked it in their calendars long ago. The RSVP is done by telephone or card, not text or e-mail. It should include the names of any guests, so nametags can be created for everyone who is expected to attend, including the staff who manage the party, and guests *who did not RSVP* (as their nametags declare in bold letters). There is also a special "party crasher" badge to honor the curious who wander in. With the rate of postage these days, invitees who do not attend have no place on the guest list.

DRESSED IN WHITES

The only three fashion essentials for a croquet game are lawn-

friendly shoes, a lovely hat to shade your eyes, and crisp white linen to keep you cool. There are few other instances in sports where the dressing room rivals the playing field. But in croquet, observers and other players pay as much attention to your hemlines as they do to your game technique.

Whites can come from Neiman Marcus, Brooks Brothers, or Heimie's. Don't fret if you don't have the Early-20th-Century white croquet uniform. The basic dress is simply light khaki or white shorts, or pants with a white button-down polo or dress shirt. Beyond that, accessories make the player. A matching hat is preferred. Subtle inclusion of color to match your playing ball is encouraged. Imagine an all-white ensemble with a blue hatband, pocket square, and Argyle socks, and you get the picture. In croquet, the fashionista can rule.

STARTING WITH A BEVERAGE

Upon arrival at 2 PM—not 1:30 or 2:15, since being early or late is the height of rudeness—guests are served their first iced beverage, either iced tea or lemonade. Occasionally, some of the male guests add vodka to the glass as well. Ladies, on the other hand, wait for the hostess to partake first. This year, Donna Hoffman is serving fortified raspberry lemonade. She says, "I got this recipe in my mixology class last year. It's just fabulous." ➔



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(Clockwise from left) Equipment ready for play; the sun-drenched day was perfect for croquet; trophies for "Best Dressed." Photos by J Gallus Photography



THE GAMES BEGIN

As the guests mingle, mewing kindnesses, the hostess calls the captain—the winner from the previous year's event—to form eight teams of four. Some guests lust for victory, while others just come for the spectacle. Teams move to the lawn, as two croquet "old guard" go out and set up the course, usually bowing out of the games themselves, preferring a comfortable place in the shade.

The 32 players play from stake to stake in a nine-wicket formation. In the classic American Tournament style, each team plays through the course. The winner of each round is placed in the playoff tournament. The remaining team members are then left to cheer on the remaining player, as the award for most team spirit is just as coveted as the award for best-dressed! Players are not only allowed, but also practically encouraged, to play with an icy beverage in hand.

All this play takes place in about two hours. Then, lunch is served on the lawn. (Guests know that if rain dampens the lawn and the game, tea will commence indoors at 4 PM sharp.)

LUNCH IS SERVED

The menu is classic afternoon tea, and could have been torn from the pages of a 1923 edition of Emily Post's *Etiquette*. Iced tea, finger sandwiches, scones, and ornamental desserts—all foods that don't require a fork—are set out on a white linen-draped table near the lawn. One exception to Emily's rules: The lemonade may be fortified with vodka (it may not improve play, but it certainly eases a loss).

The host provides beverages, tableware, and glasses. Each guest is assigned to provide a sweet, a sandwich, or a scone. Cocktail food is strictly frowned upon—instead, think delicate finger foods. Some guests unable to attend have been known to send a dish to pass in the hope of being invited next year. Who knew food could be a competition sport?

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS

After finger food and more beverages, awards are passed out—even for those who may not have held a mallet all afternoon. The best-dressed award is decided by a jury of peers, as is the award for the most team spirit. The award for croquet champion is an engraved sterling box—and the honor of being the next year's croquet captain.

As the awards presentations wind down, with many cheers (and jeers), the host and location for the next year are announced. Most guests then pack up, and make their good-byes to the host and their friends, but the biggest tea-partyers (in the nonpolitical sense of that phrase, of course) settle in for cocktails and cozy conversations.

The croquet tradition has survived by adapting with the times. For the most part, the game hasn't changed, but the way we live and use our homes has. Today, we may not arrive in Cadillacs with hampers of goodies from Dayton's. Instead, it's tea sandwiches made using Martha Stewart's instructions and Bramblewood scones from Kowalski's.

Iron your best whites, pop on a great hat, and join us on the croquet course. We hope to see you there! ➡

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Shadows grow long as teams congratulate one another for a game well played.
Photo by J Gallus Photography



A HISTORY OF THE GAME

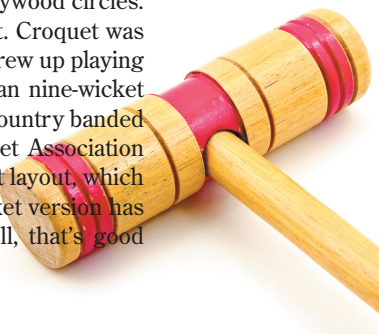
Croquet's allure to everyone from the young hipster to the "old guard" is no surprise. Through its history, since its start in the 1830s, croquet has always been a grand equalizer. It was one of the first modern coed sports, with men and women playing together after lunch or dinner parties. Both fine estates and city parks in the 1800s included croquet lawns, just as they would swimming pools or tennis courts.

Not to be morally corrupted by the sport's flagrant ways, the early Victorians mostly banned the sport. So vulgar was the idea of men and women interacting that Boston once banned croquet within the city. By 1896, loose morals had returned, and the Croquet Association was founded to promote the sport. America's first Olympics, held in 1904 in St. Louis, included not croquet, but roque. The crafty Americans changed to a new form of croquet, unheard of in the European croquet circles, allowing them to take the Gold Medal.

By the 1920s and 1930s, croquet had become the most popular sport in socialite, literary, and Hollywood circles. This was truly the Golden Age of the sport. Croquet was as common as tomato aspic. Generations grew up playing croquet (and roque)—most often, American nine-wicket croquet. In 1977, croquet clubs across the country banded together to form the United States Croquet Association (USCA). All clubs then adopted a six-wicket layout, which allows for faster games. Now, the nine-wicket version has been demoted to "backyard croquet." Well, that's good enough in our yard!

The USCA Clubs in Minnesota are:

- Madden's Croquet Club (Brainerd)
- Twin Cities Croquet Club
- University Club of St. Paul ➔



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Scones and shortbreads elicit competition among their bakers. These basic recipes can easily be made your own, with a few additions or substitutions of your favorite ingredients. Homemade jam, Devonshire cream, and sweet butter make perfect accompaniments.

EASY SCONES

Preheat oven to 455 degrees.

Ingredients

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/3 cup sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
Pinch of salt
1/2 cup dried fruit or nuts
Dash of cinnamon, nutmeg, or cocoa
2/3 cup evaporated milk (1 can) or buttermilk
1/2 cup canola oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Method

Whisk dry ingredients together. Combine the evaporated milk, canola oil, and vanilla extract, then add to the dry ingredients.

Mix together gently until just moistened. Form into a ball, and press onto a cookie sheet, shaping into a 10-inch round. Sprinkle the top with sugar. Cut into wedges, and separate on sheet. (An alternative to this is to form the dough into one or two squares, then cut into smaller squares. The dough can also be balled with a small scoop to make rounded scones.) Bake for 11 minutes. Transfer immediately to a cooling rack. The dry ingredients can be put together days before to save time.



SHORTBREAD

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Ingredients

1 pound cold butter
1 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts

Method

Work cold butter with a fork or pastry cutter until soft but not melted. (It's important not to melt the butter in order to keep the cookies' shape.) Cream the sugar into the butter, then add the flour slowly until the dough crumbles. Add the walnuts. Remove the dough from the mixing bowl, and work into a ball, gently kneading. Don't overwork the dough and warm it too much.

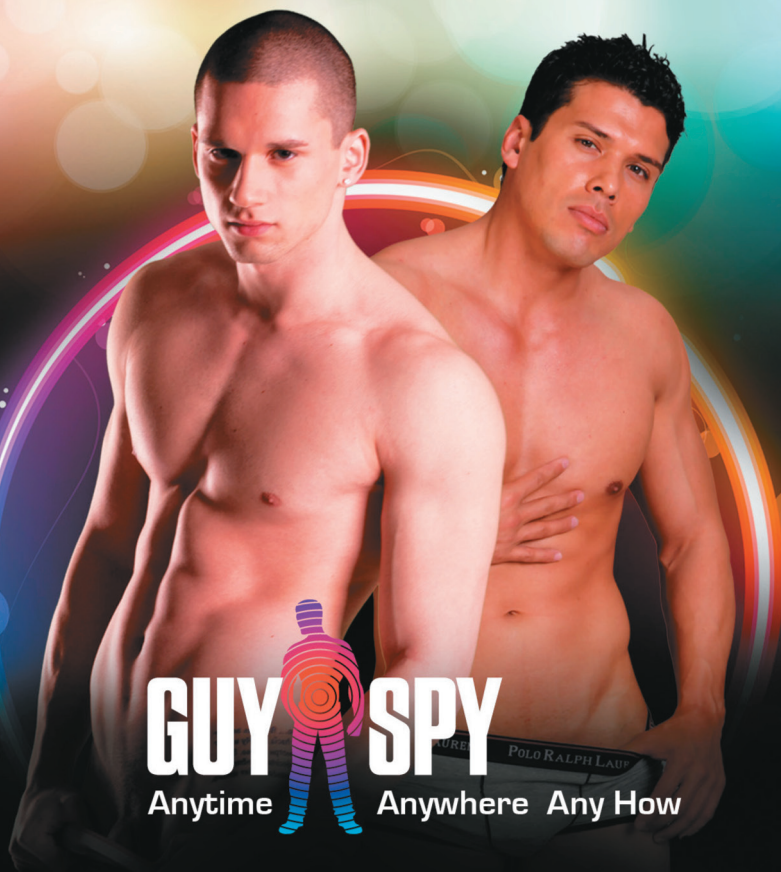
Place the dough into a 10 x 15-inch edged cookie sheet, and roll out smooth. Using a ruler and a paring knife, mark a grid with 1 x 2-inch segments. These will be your cookies. Prick the cookies with a fork in whatever lovely pattern you'd like.

Place the rolled-out cookies in the refrigerator until well chilled.

Cut the cookies apart, and place on a new cookie sheet, keeping the remaining cookies cold until ready to bake. Put the cookies in the oven, and turn the oven down to 275 degrees.

Bake for 35 minutes, then watch carefully for up to another 10 minutes. Remove cookies from the oven when they are golden brown. □

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Whether you're a Christian, Muslim, Jew, or simply a worshiper of antiquity, Israel delivers a lodestone of layered history—those almost mythological locations talked about in Sunday school or Latin class.

It's also one of the planet's youngest nations, named the Jewish homeland in 1948 as a haven from persecution from the time of Moses to the Holocaust. From nothing more than sand and chutzpah, the country made itself a world force, while also forging its position as a cultured playground. As David ben Gurion, Israel's first premier, explained the phenomenon, "If you don't believe in miracles, you're not realistic."

In El Al's darkened plane, you know morning has arrived when the Orthodox gentlemen fumble for their prayer shawls in the overhead—and the cabin crew comes down the aisle with lox and bagels. In Jerusalem, men in black from hat to toe pray before the holy Western ("Wailing") Wall. Women, too, in their own section, tuck notes with prayers into its crevices.

The wall clasps the epicenter of Jerusalem: the City of David. Who knew? Well, no one, exactly, until recently, if this Biblical title was maybe legend, maybe fact, until an intrepid archaeologist, armed with shovel and Bible as travel guide, unearthed the Temple of Solomon, David's son, the spot where he was anointed king.

We tunnel down to what were in ancient times streets and an amazing water system, drawing from the river outside

Jerusalem from the Wall.





(Clockwise from left) Arab food stand in Jerusalem; man at the Wailing Wall; Jerusalem Old City Wall.



to sustain its people during sieges, such as the Romans conducted in 72 AD. The bad guys won—and destroyed the mighty temple.

As we emerge, we hear the nasal strains of a muezzin calling faithful Muslims to prayer, reminding us this is a sacred city for everyone—including, of course, Christians. We tread the Via Dolorosa, marked with the 14 Stations of the Cross—where Jesus was whipped; where he stumbled. It ends in the Church of the Sepulchre, site of his tomb, and, almost obscured by multitudes of worshippers, the spot where the cross was raised.

Another gate tumbles us into the scintillating chaos of the Arab souk, a labyrinth of alleys lined with vendors—gold bangles, leather sandals, you name it—and name your price. Bargaining is the day's entertainment.

Then, a somber final hour at Yad Vashem, the park that bears witness to the Holocaust: One dark hall, lit only by prayer candles, lists the names of all the death camps; another calls out the name and age of every child

murdered. Never again.

Jerusalem prays, Tel Aviv plays....

And Haifa conducts business. This decidedly down-to-business seaport also hosts the lovely tiered garden World Headquarters of another religion, the peaceful Bahai. Next, we set out to wrap our minds around the

depths of history encompassed in this tiny land, stopping in way-stations of the distant past, such as Hazor, whose excavated houses, shops, and city gates reach back to the regime of Solomon.

Then, on to mountaintop Tzfat, the highest, oldest town in Israel, home of ultra- ➡

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A family ceremony at the Western Wall

orthodox Jewry, where women meander in long skirts, and men in oversize black hats sway in the synagogues sprinkled among the artists' galleries.

The port of Akra, now a pretty marina, harks back to the time of Ptolemy, then Julius Caesar, then the Apostle Paul, and most "recently" the Medieval Crusaders, who built the massive citadel we'll visit.

Back in Haifa, a sumptuous dinner at an Arab café, where dishes kept flying from the kitchen: hummus, tabouli, eggplant, kibbe, and the ever-present cukes and tomatoes—enough to sate an army. But those were just the apps. Next, lamb chops, chicken schnitzel, and a whole fish appeared, washed down by Maccabee, the local beer, and strong, sweet Arabic coffee.

The next day's dip into history revealed revered Christian sites—the Mount, of Sermon fame; Capernaum, where Jesus spent this youth—then on to Megiddo, site of the Battle of Armageddon.

Playtime in Tel Aviv: We arrived on a Saturday afternoon just as quiet of the Sabbath gave way to pandemonium. The stretching beaches echoed with the thunk of Ping Pong players; the grunt of passing joggers; the swish of kamikaze bikers; the buzz of passersby; the sizzle of barbecue; and the fizz of foaming Maccabees.

Follow the bustling boardwalk to Old Jaffa, the original port—today a tangle of romantic passageways between artisans' galleries; the Church of St. Peter; a way-station of Jonah; and the harbor's fisherman, spreading out husky nets to dry. Duck into a funky café called Dr. Skakshouka, ➡

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- Ted Olson, Conservative Litigator

A photograph of two men embracing in front of a large rainbow flag. The man in the foreground is wearing a blue sweater and looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The man behind him is also smiling and has his arms around the first man's shoulders. The background is a vibrant rainbow flag with horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

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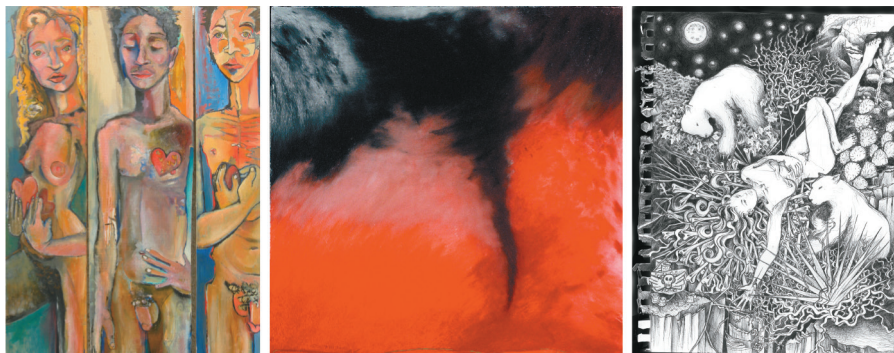
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Come morning, the Negev Desert grasped us in its endless skein of undulating sand, with a stop at Avdat, an excavation of a caravanserai that served parched traders on the Silk Route. Then, Masada, topping a stony cliff high above the Dead Sea, where Herod built his palace, and, most famously, Jewish patriots chose to die rather than succumb to the hordes of Roman soldiers assailing them below.

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Remember: Jerusalem prays, Tel Aviv plays. Be discreet in the former. Be naughty in the latter. Throughout Israel, the Crowne Plaza hotel chain is gay-friendly.

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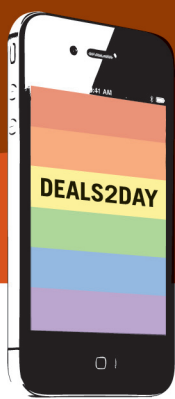
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*Standing on the deck of
the tug, gazing at the seagulls
hovering above the steel bridge,
I turned just in time to see Leo run to
the bow, our son on his heels, shouting,
"LOOK AT ME! I'M KING OF THE WORLD!"*

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Pride and Humility

THE THEME OF the recent Leather Leadership Conference in Los Angeles was “Lost Angels.” A running concept throughout the conference was the Seven Deadly Sins. A welcoming video at the opening ceremonies helpfully listed them: wrath, sloth, greed, gluttony, envy, lust, and pride.

Say what? “Pride”? You mean we, the Twin Cities GLBT and leather/BDSM/fetish communities, are spending the entire month of June celebrating one of the Seven Deadly Sins?

Yes, according to the thinking in certain theological circles, we are celebrating not just one of the Seven Deadly Sins, but the worst and most serious of them—the



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one that gives rise to the other six.

It gets worse. Over the centuries, people have formulated pairings of the Seven Deadly Sins and the demons who represent them. In at least two of these pairings, pride is associated with Lucifer, the foremost of those “lost angels.”

Let’s define our terms here. Pride (and its synonym, hubris) is a translation of the Latin word “superbia,” which means *excessive* love of self—thinking that one is better and/or more important than everyone else.

Dante defined it as “love of self perverted to hatred and contempt for one’s neighbour.” Lucifer supposedly fell from heaven, and became a lost angel, because of his desire to compete with God.

That’s not what we’re celebrating. That’s not what GLBT Pride and Leather Pride are all about. June, and its various Pride celebrations, are not about saying we’re better than anyone else. For members of both the GLBT



and leather/BDSM/fetish communities, Pride celebrations are about saying, *and believing*, that we’re *as good as* anyone else.

We are able to do so despite all the hurtful messages we’ve heard, and all the hateful things done to us over the years. Whether it’s whom we love or how we love, many people have felt, and continue to feel,

so threatened by people like us that they do their best to paint us as sick, twisted, immoral, perverted, and evil. They tell themselves and the rest of the world very loudly that they are not like us.

When confronted with people saying things like this, I remember that often, they are speaking first and most loudly to themselves, and to the part of themselves they feel a need to disown. For their sake, I hope one day, they will be able to accept and integrate that part of themselves. They will be happier, and they will no longer need to bully us to make themselves feel better or more righteous.

Fortunately, many people don’t feel a need to attack us. Paradoxically, because they know they are not like us, they don’t perceive us as a threat, and they can accept us and support us as we are. They are allies, and we are blessed to have them.

One example: During a recent leg- ➔

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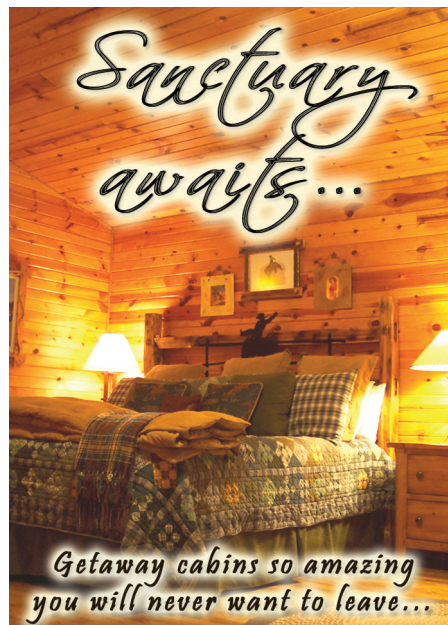


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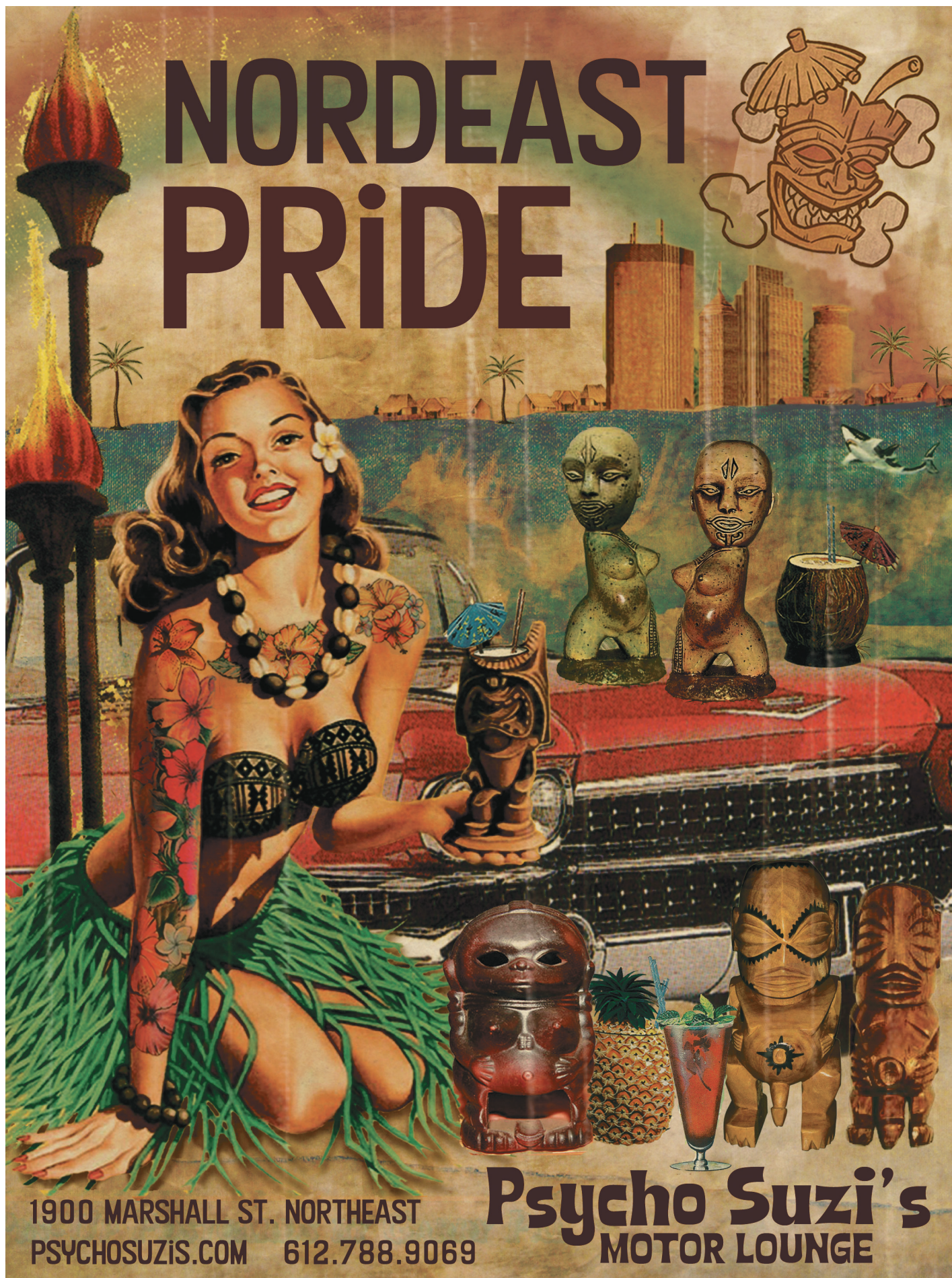
islative hearing on Minnesota's proposed constitutional ban on marriage equality, Representative Steve Simon asked: "How many more gay people does God have to create before we ask ourselves whether or not God actually wanted them around?"

Back to theology: The Seven Deadly Sins, of course, have a counterpart in the Seven Virtues, each one of which directly opposes one of the sins. The virtue opposite pride is humility, which through the centuries has been described as "knowing ourselves as we truly are," with the corollary of not getting uppity, and thinking we can challenge the king or God (see Lucifer, above).

This is "true humility," as opposed to "false humility," which is insincerely pretending to be lesser, lower, or something other than what we truly are in order to receive approval and praise. False humility is pretty much universally condemned.

To me, that definition of false humility sounds like staying in the closet in order to receive society's approval. But leave aside the part about not getting uppity, and true humility—knowing ourselves as we truly are, and living our life authentically—to me, is what a Pride celebration is all about. ▣

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[MINNESOTA RALLIES TENNIS]

The sports offerings in the Cities are quite varied. To the casual athlete or social player, figuring out how to get hooked up with a team to play on can be frustrating. Unless you know someone, chances are you might not simply stumble across a team, or find what you're looking for.

I had been trying to figure out how someone might get onto a tennis club, with little success. Then, out of nowhere came a couple of guys from Minnesota Rallies, a local organization that is part of a larger group called the Gay and Lesbian Amateur Sports Society (GLASS). Two of their administrators/players, Tyler Copeland and Neil Burghardt, helped answer my question: Where are all those tennis players?

Minnesota Rallies, founded in the 1990s, helps to organize social tennis matches locally for GLBT tennis players. While not exactly a tennis club, it does get players in touch with each other to play matches on their own schedule.

It really is more like a social tennis experience for individuals who are looking for someone to play tennis with, and who want to make friends and socialize with other tennis players. Think of it as a match.com for tennis players.

"We know there are a lot of tennis

players, but they don't know how to get tapped in," Copeland said. "There is a misconception of being super-competitive, but it's not true at all."

Copeland and Burghardt encourage everyone from all levels to get in touch with them to find matches to play. Right now, they match players of all levels, from beginners to competitive major tournament players.

As Burghardt described it, "There is no sense of exclusion with levels of play at all, because you set up your own matches."

Minnesota Rallies coordinates two summer tennis-playing opportunities.

The first is summer tennis at Powderhorn Park, every Saturday at 10 AM. Simply e-mail <mnralliestennis@yahoo.com> to get on the mailing list.

The second is the ladder tennis program, where you pick people to challenge to a match; report your score; and, depending on how well you do, move up or down the ladder. This option can be slightly competitive, but the players are more focused on the social aspect of meeting other players.

If you're looking for a fun tennis adventure, check out the annual tournament hosted by Minnesota Rallies, the North Country Classic, now in its 18th year, which will be held June 3-5 at Baseline Tennis Center at the University of Minnesota.



[Volleyball]



Having solved the mystery of the missing tennis teams, I focused my attention on another group of athletes I only see once a year in action. They are the volleyball players, who only seem to come out during the Pride Festival in Loring Park. I wanted to know what that was all about. As it happens, GLASS also organizes volleyball opportunities in much the same way as it does tennis.

There isn't really a GLBT volleyball league. While no volleyball leagues currently are in session, I couldn't help but wonder where these players come from. As it turns out, GLASS provides pickup volleyball nights in the fall and winter, by which GLBT teams form for league play through the City of Minneapolis.

These are the teams we see playing at the Pride Festival every year. The Pride Volleyball Tournament will take place in Loring Park on June 25.

During the fall and winter volleyball seasons, teams are available based on skill, ranging from recreational to competitive, so they have room for anyone who wants to play.

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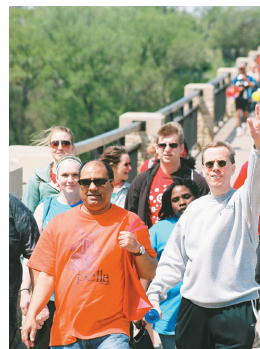


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YWCA

SETTING ASIDE TIME and money for my own personal health has always taken a backseat to just about everything else. I have both good excuses and pathetic ones, but as I was speaking with Ellen Cleary, Senior Development Officer at the YWCA, I realized what was really behind all my rationalizing. The last time I was at a gym, I felt lost, intimidated, and out of place. I can't be the only one instinctively to shy away from gyms where *you* are more likely to get picked up than a kettle bell.

At the YWCA, the focus has always been very different.

Cleary states, "We strive to be an inclusive facility. We strive to be a place where everyone feels welcome, and it's kind of 'come as you are.'" Furthermore, all new members get a full orientation, including a session with a personal trainer who can explain the various machines and classes available. If more help is needed, the Y also offers Coach Approach: a longer period of guidance that helps clients

set goals, and stay focused on achieving them.

While the YWCA is perfect for clients who are new to the gym experience, it also offers cutting-edge classes for the seasoned athlete.

"We've got incredible aquatic facilities. We're a licensed provider of Total Immersion—the only one in Minnesota," Cleary adds.

Total Immersion benefits swimmers who wish to maximize their efficiency in the water, and perfect their technique.

It would be impossible even to touch on all the classes the Y offers—a full listing is available online, and many are available with no additional fee to members.

Perhaps the best thing about taking a class at the YWCA is the supportive environment it can offer.

Cleary explains, "This is the place where you can find people who want to get healthy, stay well, and do it in a community."

The Twin Cities is an active community, and many top-notch gyms are competing

for a new member's dollars. Aside from the excellent facilities, the environment, and the wide range of available classes, one more reason to choose the YWCA is that the organization uses its funds to advocate for the empowerment of women and girls, and to address racial injustice.

Each YWCA—though affiliated with the national organization—operates locally, so your membership dollars support *your* community. In the Twin Cities, the YWCA provides a wealth of community services including early-childhood education, women's wellness activities, and after-school programs for inner-city youth.

So, if you're like me, and you've exhausted your list of excuses and are looking to make a change, check out the YWCA. ▣

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The Perfect Pride Party

PARTY PLANNING CAN be such a bitch. As Pride Weekend approaches, the pressure is on:

- (1) Rainbow jewelry, party invitations, and tablecloth. Check.
- (2) Balloons and bubble machine. Check.
- (3) Lady Gaga CD. Check.
- (4) Jello shots chilling in the fridge. Check.
- (5) Trip to Costco. Check.

You've planned your party down to the last detail. Nothing can go wrong. Right?

Au contraire, mon ami!

Every host and hostess should be prepared for the possibility that someone at your Pride party may have too much to drink.

One sign to be on the lookout for is guests doing face-plants into the onion dip. Also, be alert for telltale little audio clues, such as, "OK! Whosh got my pants?"

If a person becomes drunk, you must try to get him or her to eat something, and drink black coffee.

The reason for the black coffee is, of course, that no one livens up a party quite like a wide-awake drunk.

So, how does one end a Pride cocktail party?

Even when you put the ending time on the invitation, you usually find there are a few hangers-on who are having such a good time, they forgot or want to forget that it's time to go home.

There's not much you can do to encourage people to leave. It's unfriendly to close the bar, and just as unfriendly to say you are weary, and want to go to bed.

That is especially true if the problem drinker is still lurking around. It's common knowledge that he'll insist on going to bed with you.

I suggest that you tell the mindless idiots—I mean, "late guests"—that you'd like to go out for a late-night breakfast.

I have found that a slightly less polite—but much more effective—method of dealing with such people is to casually set them on fire.

Of course, there is no way to ensure that your Pride soiree will be incident-free. Faces will land in onion dip. Someone will barf on your petunias.

But, consider the source here: I think your most important party detail is:

- (1) Prearrange plenty of designated drivers. Check.

Bye for now.

Kiss, kiss.

Happy, Safe Pride! ■

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10 Years

I moved into my first condo on September 10, 2001. That night, my then-girlfriend and I shared a bottle of champagne with two friends, and looked in despair at all the dreadful wallpaper we had to strip from the walls. The sadist who sold us the place had covered every inch of the place—including the electric sockets—in jungle print wallpaper. My girlfriend and I had taken the coming week off to strip the condo clean of the awful stuff.

It was my first condo, and my first time living with a girlfriend. I was young, and filled with hope and anxiety.

One of the reasons we bought the place was that it had built-in bookshelves in the dining room and living room, and we owned thousands of books. When I filled the shelves, I was careful to keep our books separated. I was already anticipating the day we'd split up, and I'd have to make a hurried exit.

As it happened, we didn't break up until several years later, after we had already sold and moved out of the condo. But young Jen had no idea of that then—just as she had no idea of what would happen the day after we moved into the condo.

On the morning of September 11, I was driving to the hardware store to buy chemi-

cals to strip wallpaper. I was listening to NPR, which broke into its exciting account of some incredibly tedious subject to report that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. Because it was NPR, no one seemed particularly excited or upset, which I thought was odd, because I felt planes hitting buildings was exactly the type of thing you should get upset about.

So, I stopped into my girlfriend's office to watch the news on the Internet. These were the days of dialup, kids, so it took several minutes of listening to that weird AOL rubber-band connection sound before I finally learned what was going on. Shortly after I logged on, the second plane hit the South Tower.

For the next hour, my girlfriend's law partner and I stared in stunned disbelief at the coverage, while I clutched a phone, and reported on the happenings to my girlfriend, who was back at the condo. At some point, real life shook me out of my trance, and I left for the hardware store to buy wallpaper-remover chemicals. The world might be ending, but that wallpaper wasn't going to strip itself!

We worked 18-hour days the next week stripping wallpaper, with the news blaring

constantly in the background. I was so grateful to have an all-consuming task to keep me occupied during that terrible time.

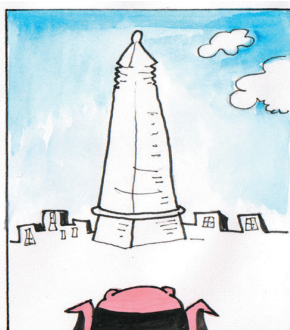
I finally understood my grandmother's reaction to President Franklin Roosevelt's announcement that the United States had entered World War II. She began crying, then got on her hands and knees, and scrubbed every floor in the house.

When I heard the news that Osama bin Laden had finally been found and killed, I was in a new house with a new girlfriend. We were in the midst of ordering lumber for a new deck and arguing with our contractor when the news broke.

So much has changed in the past 10 years in the life of this dusty old planet. It's comforting to know that in spite of all tragedy and turmoil in our personal and global lives—the wars, the breakups, the loss of lives, the loss of friends—somehow, we all manage to carry on. The wars will end eventually (let's hope); we'll find new relationships that will have an entirely new set of problems to challenge us; and there will always, always be wallpaper to strip and decks to build. ◻

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Dear Ms. Behavior:

I adore my boyfriend. We're having the most incredible and lovely romance. My concern is that John was raised to believe that it's better not to talk about uncomfortable situations.

This came up yesterday, when John told me about a problem he is having with his housemate. He told me that they've been e-mailing each other about it.

I said, "You live in the same house! Why are you e-mailing, and not talking? That's not healthy!"

It got me to thinking: What if I ignore this sign, and then this happens with us in a year or two?

So far, we've had no problems, but we're just ending our first year. I talk about everything in a very direct manner, no matter how uncomfortable.

I want to ask John whether he can learn to be a more overt communicator. I want to deal with it now, before we have a problem.

So, I want to say, "I hope we can always make it a rule to talk about stuff as it happens, instead of waiting until any real harm is done....And if that isn't an option, could you say so now?"

Do you think John could be trained to talk?

—STEVE

Dear Steve:

The relationship world is easily divided into communicators and noncommunicators, who usually end up in tortured pairings. The chatty among us are initially drawn to and then endlessly frustrated by those who don't talk, and the silent types wish the talk-

ers would just shut up.

For people uncomfortable with talking, a mere 15-minute conversation may feel like breathing underwater. But for those who experience talking as an actual need, noncommunicators seem like recalcitrant teenagers intentionally withholding communication.

It seems natural for this concern to arise at the scary one-year mark, which is when most couples are forced to move beyond the initial thrill of sex, movies, and infatuation. Once you bring up this issue, John's reaction will reveal a lot about his willingness and ability to talk.

As for whether John could be trained to communicate, it depends. Unless he views noncommunication as a problem, he probably won't change. So, the burden will be on you to push it, because he is probably comfortable with how things are right now.

You can try to motivate John by engaging him in small, nonthreatening conversations, and then rewarding him when he chats with you.

Many sages of the universe have tried to address the mystery about why communicators are always paired with noncommunicators, even though it creates homicidal impulses for both sides.

Ms. Behavior offers three theories:

(1) We re-create our early wounded relationships with our mothers. Those of us who felt suffocated are drawn to communicators, and those who have felt abandoned are drawn to noncommunicators. Though it seems counterintuitive, we unconsciously seek people who might torture us into healing.

(2) No other combination works: Two communicators would talk each other into a coma, and a pair of noncommunicators

would ignore each other to death.

(3) God is mean and punishing.

Dear Ms. Behavior:

A photographer recently asked my girlfriend, Jane, to pose for a lesbian calendar. This photographer's work consists primarily of tasteful-but-sensual black-and-white nudes, sometimes in couples. Jane realized that I wasn't crazy about the idea, and said she won't do it if I don't want her to.

My dilemma is this: Jane's body is her own. I don't want to appear controlling and tell her not to do it. On the other hand, it also upsets me to imagine her kissing or touching another woman.

Any suggestions?

—CONNIE

Dear Connie:

Perhaps the solution need not be as black and white as it seems. It doesn't sound like you necessarily object to the nudity in the photographs, but rather to your girlfriend posing in sexual positions with other women. If this is true, you might explain which specific aspects make you uncomfortable, rather than asking her not to do it at all.

Try saying something really clear, like: "Go have your naked photos taken with my blessing, pumpkin, but I'd be more comfortable if you could please refrain from kissing, dry-humping, and muff-diving with others, even for the sake of art." □

© 2011 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette* (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.



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Happily Ever After

Dreaming of Happily Every After in the Fairy Tale Land of Rainbows and Unicorns

It's lying by the lake with his fingers in your hair. It's fantasizing that this is forever, and knowing it isn't fair. It's thinking he sees you the way you see him. It's being impossibly in love, but knowing it must be pretend....

If you're like me, the summer rekindles that precious, hope-driven, trite mess of a thing called "romance"; that thing that exists in the Fairy Tale Land of Rainbows and Unicorns; that thing we read about in books, and watch in romantic comedies.

I'm part of a rogue, possibly cliché, portion of the young gay community that still believes in those fairy tales—in the notion that you don't have to hook up to have a good night (I have a fabulously bland sex life *and* still manage to have fun); in the notion that there is "sex," and there is "making love," the latter which I unquestionably prefer.

I think it still exists. No, no—not the teddy-bears-and-chocolate kind of romance—that's not really romance anyway. I mean the kind of romance, maybe, where we remember how much fun courtship can be—the kind of romance that actually has a *beginning* (where "beginning" is defined as time that occurs *before* sex, and we aren't just talking foreplay). A beginning includes getting to know one another.

This kind of romance saves the first time for a moment of passion, not play.

Does it exist? Or am I part of a dying race grasping at futile dreams?

At 19, I was the stereotypical teen, tied helplessly to insubstantial passions. As a sophomore in college, I thought I'd conquer the world with my interest in politics



and business. Two months later, I decided instead I was going to be a writer. Three months later, I was going to take a year off after graduation to "find myself" in Europe (talk about cliché).

My passions were fleeting, but they were deep, each a genuine reflection of the moment's fashion.

A strange feeling arose in these months, however, that, unlike my postcollege ambitions, I couldn't shake. I'd come off of the Year of the Slut, and realized what I *really wanted*, more than anything, was this thing about which I heard people say: "You'll just know when it happens." It was what so many poets and artists tortured themselves over, this hackneyed being "*in love*" thing.

What was it—really?

So, I met the man of my dreams. I fell into breathless infatuation, which developed into love, but ended in earth-shattering heartbreak. We made memories in those years. We *made love*.

He was the closest thing I've ever had to

true romance, and it played out exactly as I imagined love would: perfectly. Except for that whole being abused thing. Oh, and that whole infidelity issue....minor details.

OK, OK. So, I don't have the track record to prove that romance is alive. It has to say something, though, that I feel this way. I mean, surely I'm not by myself in the Fairy Tale Land of Rainbows and Unicorns. There must be more of us out there. Closet romantic, anyone?

If, as you read this, you resonate with such longing, know that we're in it together. Know that just because lust overwhelms the scene, it's not all there is (I go out all the time, without hooking up!, although I do very much enjoy a good cuddle). Know that we aren't trite, despite what our sardonic counterparts say.

If you have no idea what I'm talking about, or are cynical, congratulations on making it this far in my column without puking, or for continuing postexpulsion.

If you've found your Happily Ever After, I thank you for showing us it's possible. That phrase doesn't have to be the ending of a fairy tale—just the beginning of a real one.

All we can do is leave our hearts protected but open; live life as decent human beings; and hope that maybe one day, we'll find him (or her) on the horizon, with or without that glistening armor....

It's listening to him say, "I love you," and knowing it's OK to know it's true.

It's hope, it's passion, two hearts' patter—your very own Happily Ever After. □



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